



B-G and religion

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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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Global bourse

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## U.S. fears Israeli leaks could torpedo talks

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
WASHINGTON. — U.S. officials yesterday expressed their concern over what they described as a "flood" of Israeli disclosures to news organizations in recent weeks about secret Israeli-Jordanian contacts.

The Americans said they feared that the leaks would further embarrass King Hussein and perhaps force him to back out of commitments limiting the scope of any international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

### Hussein meets Mubarak in Cairo

## Israel situation focus of talks

By YERUDA LITANI  
Post Middle East Editor  
King Hussein made a quick visit to Cairo yesterday to confer on Middle East peace moves.

Earlier in the day, President Mubarak sent Prime Minister Shamir a telegram expressing Egyptian support for an international peace conference.

Sources in Shamir's office said the message was "not unexpected."

They said Shamir would respond to the telegram in the next few days, probably with his own "counter-proposal" for direct Israeli-Jordanian talks.

Highly placed sources in Cairo said the political crisis raging in Israel was one of the key topics discussed in Hussein's meeting last night with Mubarak. The two leaders attempted to develop a unified stance on peace proposals, and to discuss strains in relations with the PLO.



Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron tours the Hebron area yesterday. Story, Page 4. (Media/G. Feinblat)

### IAF now flies over the Beka'a valley

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT  
Post Defence Reporter  
The Israeli Air Force expanded the scope of its reconnaissance flights in Lebanon by venturing into the Beka'a Valley, which is protected by Syrian surface-to-air missiles, the Lebanese police reported yesterday.

The flights coincided with concern in Israel that Palestinian and extremist Shi'ite Hizbullah terrorists are about to increase their attacks against Israel and the security zone in southern Lebanon.

According to a short statement by the Lebanese police, two Israeli jet fighters broke the sound barrier over Ba'albek at 12:53 p.m. Reporters in the city told the Associated Press that the planes flew southeast towards the border and that neither the Syrians nor Hizbullah fighters fired at them. It was the first time the IAF had flown over that area this year, the reports from Beirut said.

In Tel Aviv an IDF spokesman declined comment.

However, he denied reports from Tyre that two Israeli patrol boats had been fired at the Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the city and that the IDF and South Lebanese Army had attacked villages in southern Lebanon.

Tension in the Sidon and Tyre areas has increased in the past few days, following the stepped-up Israeli air strikes.

Israel, meanwhile is expecting

## Sharp exchange at Demjanjuk trial

By ERNIE MEYER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Judge Zvi Tal yesterday accused John Demjanjuk's counsel Mark O'Connor of "bad taste" for describing the 1931-1932 man-made famine in the Ukraine as a *sho'ah*. That word has a special connotation in connection with Hitler's Holocaust of the Jewish people, and should not be applied to any other tragedy, however regrettable, he said.

The exchange came about as State Attorney Yona Blatman objected to the use of the term by O'Connor, who was cross-examining Matityahu Meyzel, a professor of Soviet history at Tel Aviv University.

Court president Dov Levin overruled Blatman's objection, saying that O'Connor could use any terminology he chose. Tal then spoke up, but stressed that he was expressing his personal opinion and not taking issue with Levin's ruling.

O'Connor explained that "in the world I come from the word *sho'ah* is not the same as Holocaust. To me

*sho'ah* simply means destruction. I apologize and won't use the word again."

When O'Connor added a remark about the "inflamed atmosphere" in the courtroom, Levin reprimanded him. "Why do you always exaggerate?" the judge asked. "A listener will wonder what on earth is going on here, while in fact everything is quiet and orderly."

O'Connor blamed everything — as he has done in the past — on translational and trans-cultural difficulties.

Levin: "Are we speaking about today? We are wasting time."

O'Connor: "I thank the court for its indulgence and patience."

Blatman had been questioning Prof. Meyzel on the history of the Vlassov army, named after the Russian general whom the Germans took prisoner in June 1942.

An officer with a distinguished record till then, Vlassov began to show anti-Stalinist and anti-

### 'U.S. erred in pushing Shamir'

By BENNY MORRIS  
Post Diplomatic Correspondent  
The Americans made "a grave error" by trying to persuade Prime Minister Shamir to back Foreign Minister Peres' peace conference initiative.

"Had they not pressed Shamir so, perhaps he would have been more conciliatory," said a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

The source said that Shamir's "anger" at yesterday morning's Likud Knesset faction meeting was in "reaction to the leak of the message by [Secretary of State George] Shultz" on Sunday, which urged Shamir to support the international conference initiative as the only available means for triggering direct Israeli-Jordanian negotiations.

Shamir, said the source, "was incensed by the leak." Shamir feels that the recent spate of notes from Washington, generally favouring Peres' position, is akin to "interference in internal Israeli affairs."

The source said that Shamir was not unduly perturbed by the American position because "he feels that the [Israeli] public is behind him."

Likud sources yesterday said that "Peres essentially put the Americans in a difficult position. The U.S. had long opposed an international conference, as had Peres. Suddenly, Peres changed his position. The Arab leaders then went to Washington and said: 'Everybody is for a conference, even Peres. You alone oppose it.' So the Americans felt obliged to fall into step."

These Likud sources feel that America remains basically ambivalent about the conference proposal, and that Washington's support for

"familiar with a three-part memorandum of understanding" between Jordan and Israel, the newspaper said the document included a Jordanian agreement to limit the powers of an international conference, which would be convened as a stepping stone to direct Jordan-Israel negotiations.

"This would apparently have the effect of reducing the Soviet Union to a bystander in the process, an arrangement that pleases Washington but does not seem likely to be accepted by Moscow," the Times said.

The newspaper's State Department correspondent, David Shipler, wrote that the memorandum's main provisions were reportedly negotiated last month in London between Hussein and two Israeli leaders — Peres and Defence Minister Rabin.

The final language of the document was said to have been "polished" with the help of the U.S.

special Middle East envoy, Wat Cluervin, who has been shuttling between Jerusalem and Amman.

According to diplomatic sources, the document contains two sections that are to be made public if the Israeli cabinet agrees.

Under the first provision, the UN secretary-general would invite the five permanent members of the Security Council to convene a conference based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

The second part reportedly provides for the conference to invite "geographical bilateral committees" to conduct the actual negotiations.

The third part, which was to have been kept secret, reportedly says the conference will not impose any solution or veto any accord reached by the bilateral committees. "This is described as a commitment by Jordan to the United States, to be conveyed to Israel," according to the Times.

"In that way," it continued, "Jordan provides for the first time a clear definition of the severely curtailed

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

## Crisis may drag on for next few weeks

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
and BENNY MORRIS  
Yesterday's harsh mutual attacks by Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres seemed to seal the fate of the national unity government.

But Labour Party sources said last night that Peres would withdraw his proposal for an international conference which was due to be put to a vote in the inner cabinet this morning, and that the government might continue to exist in a state of "chronic crisis" for the next few weeks.

Labour ministers met late last night in Jerusalem to plan their strategy for the cabinet meeting. They were also concerned about how to win a Knesset majority for

early elections, which the ministers said are now "inevitable."

Labour sources last night ruled out the possibility of a unilateral abandonment of the coalition, saying that the party would bide its time until it could gather enough votes for early elections. They added that such an opportunity would present itself "in the very near future," because the continued existence of the government in the current situation was "intolerable."

Senior ministers in both parties criticized the tough speeches made yesterday by Shamir and Peres, which both camps described as unprecedented. Likud criticized Peres's implied comparison between Shamir and arch-terrorist Abu Nidal, while Labour blasted Shamir's

depiction of Peres's proposals as "criminal."

Likud sources last night predicted that Peres would refrain from pressing for a vote at today's inner cabinet meeting, preferring to defer the hour of decision "by a week or more."

A tie-vote (five-five), which would mean rejection of the international conference proposals, would vitiate Peres's planned visit to the U.S., where he would be barred from speaking about or promoting the conference proposals. But deferment of the decision would enable Peres to go to the U.S. this evening and to continue advocating the conference there and to try to mobilize support for it.

The Likud sources anticipate that

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

## Party leaders blast each other

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Post Political Reporter  
Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Premier Peres yesterday launched blistering attacks on each other's positions on the proposed international peace conference, barely stopping short of profanities.

Speaking to the Knesset Likud faction, Shamir accused Peres and Labour of a "criminal" attempt to "quickly find the way to do away with all of Israel's strategic assets. He said the Likud must 'protect the state from dangers created artificially from within.'"

At a meeting of the Labour faction later in the afternoon, Peres said that Shamir's speech consisted of "in-

sults, lies and defamations." Peres said that Shamir was trying to "de-legitimize" half the population and half of the government while continuing to maintain that the government is one of "unity."

Bolstered by Labour's failure to put together a Knesset majority in favour of early elections, Shamir used his toughest language yet against Peres and the international conference. He dismissed the "systematic and malicious lies" about a possible compromise between Labour and the Likud and said such reports were aimed at "weakening the resistance and sowing vacillation" in the party's ranks.

"Every remnant and relic of this

plan and formula must be swept off the discussion table," Shamir said of Peres's proposal for a peace conference.

Peres's initiatives had already succeeded in undermining Israel's relations with the U.S., Shamir claimed. The foreign minister had caused the U.S. to drop its policy of not entering into confrontations with Israel over the issues of the territories and Jerusalem, he asserted.

Peres had placed the Americans in an "intolerable" situation, Shamir said. The Labour leader had exposed the U.S. to pressures from its "Arab allies" who had told the administration that now that Israel no

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

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## Missing Contra funds from Brunei are found

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — A missing \$10 million contribution from the Sultan of Brunei to rebels in Nicaragua wound up in the wrong Swiss bank account and the unintended recipient withdrew the money, a Congressional inquiry was told yesterday.

"This was the last substantial donation to the Contras unaccounted for until this morning,"

Senator Daniel Inouye announced at the start of the hearings. "What we now know is that the \$10 million was transferred into the account of an individual at Credit Suisse [Bank], and that this individual withdrew the funds," he said.

The bank has filed criminal charges seeking return of the money, he added.

According to the Tower commis-

sion, the Brunei contribution was solicited by Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America Elliott Abrams. White House aide Oliver North had provided Brunei with a secret Swiss Bank account number being used for clandestine Contra support operations during Congress's ban on aid.

North was fired on November 25 when it was discovered that profits from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran had been diverted, possibly illegally, to the Contras. Inouye said it was not yet known how the Brunei money landed in the wrong account at the Credit Suisse.

"We do not yet know whether this mistake was the result of Colonel North giving the wrong account number to Secretary Abrams, or whether it resulted from another error during the transaction," Inouye said. "I suppose the question before us is, does the Senate select committee get a finder's fee?" he added.

(See hearings - page 3)

### WE'RE MOVING



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## The weather at major Swissair destinations

	12.5.87	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	9 16 18	4	18
BRUSSELS	9 16 18	4	18
BUCENOS AIRES	9 16 18	4	18
CHICAGO	17 45 18	10	20
COFENHAGEN	17 45 18	10	20
FRANKFURT	17 45 18	10	20
GENEVA	17 45 18	10	20
MELBOURNE	17 45 18	10	20
HONG KONG	17 45 18	10	20
JORDANESBURG	17 45 18	10	20
LONDON	17 45 18	10	20
MADRID	17 45 18	10	20
MONTREAL	17 45 18	10	20
NEW YORK	17 45 18	10	20
OSLO	17 45 18	10	20
PARIS	17 45 18	10	20
SAO PAULO	17 45 18	10	20
STOCKHOLM	17 45 18	10	20
TOKYO	17 45 18	10	20
TORONTO	17 45 18	10	20
VIENNA	17 45 18	10	20
ZURICH	17 45 18	10	20

\*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: Temperatures will continue to rise while humidity will continue to fall.

	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Min-Max
Jerusalem	16	8-23	25
Golan	17	7-23	26
Salad	23	6-20	22
Hatifa Port	17	10-28	24
Tiberias	34	10-28	24
Nazareth	39	4-23	25
Atula	45	7-24	26
Shimon	16	12-21	27
Tel Aviv	62	12-21	27
B-G Airport	43	11-24	26
Jericho	17	11-31	32
Gaza	63	13-20	24
Beersheba	47	10-25	27
Eilat	18	10-32	33

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Two chairs instituted by the Weizmann Institute's Canadian Society were officially inaugurated yesterday at a campus luncheon given in honour of 30 Institute supporters from Canada, by Institute President Prof. Aryeh Dvoretzky. They are Asa Rothstein Career Development Chair in Genetic Diseases (incumbent: Dr. Boris Tartakovsky) and the Toronto Weizmann League's Career Development Chair in Children's Diseases (incumbent: Dr. Barbara Schick). Later in the day, a peptide synthesizer, acquired with Canadian donated funds, was dedicated.

Swedish Consul Stephen Duhs and the first secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, Marvin Feuerwerker were among the 50 guests who attended a banquet Monday night at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in honour of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of more than 90,000 Hungarian Jews during the last days of World War II.

## ARRIVALS

Raya Jaglom, president of World Wio as vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, from the WJC Executive meeting in Budapest.

Mrs. Irene and Mr. Hyman Kreitzman, Brittan, Ben-Gurion University Foundation, Brittan; Mrs. Donna Hollenberg, Mrs. Stella Krolit, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Meyerson, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood Shuf, Mr. Ben Shuckett, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Vichar, Mrs. Irene and Mr. Harry Weiss O.C., Mrs. Betty Wolfson, from Canada; guests of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, to participate in the 17th annual board of governors meeting.

## Refusenik's coffin to arrive today

TEL AVIV (Itim). - The remains of refusenik Yuri Shepizman, who died in Vienna Sunday on his way to Israel, are scheduled to arrive here today on an El Al flight from the Austrian capital.

The cortege is to leave Jerusalem's Sanhedria funeral parlour in the afternoon for the Har Hamenuchot cemetery.

Meanwhile, the two daughters of refusenik Anna Goldort, who for 13 years has been denied permission to immigrate to Israel, reported to the Public Council for Soviet Jewry here yesterday that their mother had been told that she could now leave for Israel.

## Hit-and-run suspect nabbed after accident

TEL AVIV (Itim). - A driver suspected of hitting and critically injuring a pedestrian was captured late Monday night by police, half an hour after he allegedly fled the scene.

The accident occurred at about midnight, when a car hit a pedestrian on Rehov Yafet in Jaffa.

The police found the suspect in his home and arrested him. He was apparently drunk at the time of the crime.

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

# Coalition sparring continues during no-confidence vote

By DVORAH GETZLER  
Post Knesset Reporter

The national unity coalition still had its act well together yesterday. Although Likud and Labour MKs attacked each other across the plenum floor, they united and easily defeated two no-confidence motions by the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and the Progressive List for Peace, who between them summoned up only four votes in support of their motions on the mooted peace conference.

But the Likud's Ehud Olmert, who had been scathingly attacked by the Alignment during its faction executive meeting the night before, used the opportunity to hit back.

The Alignment, he said, should not point a finger at the Likud as a party opposed to peace. No Labour government had ever made peace, he said, to clamour from the Alignment benches. The only government that had achieved a peace agreement was led by the Likud's Menachem Begin.

Substantively, and addressing himself to the PLP's resolution

which attacked Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's peace proposals because they excluded the PLO, Olmert dismissed as marginal any Israeli group that could countenance PLO participation in an international conference.

But, he warned, any initiative by the UN's secretary-general was to be regarded with the utmost suspicion. If Javier Perez de Cuellar convened any international peace conference he would include the PLO.

Olmert scorned the idea of an international gathering that would disperse after a few opening ceremonial hours. What he wanted to see was a document from a certain party (Jordan's King Hussein) committing himself to continuing talks with Israel after the great powers had left the conference.

The tension was defused by the Alignment's Edna Solador, who, speaking calmly and quietly, challenged the Likud to go along with Peres's proposals.

If the proposals were the bubble that Olmert had declared them to

be, she said, then what was the Likud afraid of?

Now was the time to try any opening, take any reasonable risk, that might lead to peace, she insisted. Nor was there reason to dissolve the government in order to pursue the Peres plan, since the search for peace was an integral part of the national unity government's guidelines.

Doves and hawks alike in Labour (Solador is in the hawkish wing of the party) were united behind the Peres proposals, she said. Labour did not want elections, but if that was inevitable, what better reason could there be for going to the people, she asked.

Replying for the government was Transport Minister Haim Corfu. But although his task was to put the official government point of view, his emphasis on the Camp David framework and autonomy in the territories seemed to reflect Likud rather than Alignment thinking, in yet another manifestation of the deep split within the coalition.

## Flap in Herut over honour for Rabin

By JONATHAN KARP  
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - Herut's Mayor Eli Landau yesterday turned down a request by activists from his own Herut Party that he cancel tomorrow's ceremony in which Defence Minister Rabin is to be awarded honorary citizenship of the city.

Leaders of Herut's Young Guard, furious over Rabin's recent comments that certain areas of Jewish settlement in the West Bank are not vital to Israel's security, met with Landau yesterday to demand that the ceremony be scrapped or at least postponed until the political debate on the issue subsides.

The mayor rejected the demand, arguing that one must distinguish between government functions and partisan politics. "Yitzhak Rabin is defence minister for the whole country, and in this matter I am acting as mayor and not as head of a party," Landau said last night.

Landau defended the decision to honour Rabin, which he said was approved by a majority of the council. He referred to Rabin's exemplary military record, first as an officer in the Palmah and eventually

as chief of general staff in 1967. "I think it will be an honour for our city," said the mayor, a former paratrooper.

Rabin was a wise choice from a local perspective as well, Landau added, noting that the defence minister served for three years as head of the organization that established the new Yigal Alon shooting range in town.

Landau, a close associate of Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, said it was no secret that he and Rabin were politically opposed. "Mr. Rabin knows exactly which side of the line I stand on as far as Eretz Yisrael is concerned. I am trying to prevent a Palestinian state between the Mediterranean Sea and Jordan."

Nonetheless, Landau promised that Likud councillors would not insult the defence minister by boycotting the awards ceremony. "We don't want to do what the Alignment's ministers did last year when the city honoured Yitzhak Shamir," he said.

The Herut activists said they would demonstrate during tomorrow evening's ceremony.

## 'Most pre-schoolers can handle computers'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israeli kindergarteners take well to computers, a national conference on computerized learning was told yesterday at the Wingate Institute near Netanya.

The experiment with the pre-schoolers was carried out earlier this year at the kindergarten of the Levinsky College of Education in Tel Aviv.

The tests showed that most of the children very quickly became familiar with the operation of a computer. It was also noted that children who had difficulty with the computer also had problems with other activities.

Miriam Mevorah, who conducted the experiment, said the children visited the college's computer laboratory twice a week and became familiar with the electronic brain by observing how the adult operators worked.

According to Mevorah, "satisfaction and pride were observed in the children and their parents - after they mastered the computer."

## HUSSEIN

(Continued from Page One)

are following the domestic Israeli crisis with great interest, they added.

The sources stated that the Hussein-Mubarak summit was, in effect, a continuation of meetings last week in Amman between the Jordanian and Egyptian prime ministers and foreign ministers on the issue of a Middle East conference.

Radio Monte Carlo said last night that from the Jordanian and Egyptian point of view, the main obstacle to a peace conference was the question of Palestinian representation.

Egypt closed down a number of PLO offices in response to PLO criticism of Egypt at the recent Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers.

At the meeting, the PLO also cancelled an accord with Jordan creating the framework for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks. The PLO said that the Palestinians must be represented in peace talks by an independent PLO delegation.

But Radio Monte Carlo quoted Mubarak's top political adviser as saying that there was no possibility of implementing the PNC's demand for an independent PLO delegation to a peace conference. Dr. Osama el-Baz said that the formula of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation remained the most workable one.

## U.S. ERRED

(Continued from Page One)

Peres' position "may be temporary (and may vanish) once the initiative dies in Israel. I don't think they are firmly committed to the conference," said the sources.

They added that a measure of Washington's lack of enthusiasm was that the U.S. had failed to meet two of Peres' "original scenario requirements: The U.S. had failed to adopt the conference proposals and publicize and broadcast them as an American plan. Washington did not push the conference as it did, say, the "Reagan plan" in 1982. And Washington did not send Shultz to the region to carry out a shuttle, which Peres wanted, to instill momentum and euphoria into the proposals.

These American failures, said the sources, "have left Peres somewhat frustrated. True, the U.S. has been pressing Shamir to fall into line. But they failed to go the extra inch, to give the final push, without which Peres' [and Washington's] blandishments have proven useless."

Labour sources have stressed that while "the bottom line" of the American messages has been support for Peres, Washington has been "very careful" in couching these messages in tones amenable to Shamir.

The Americans, for instance, have gone out of their way to repeatedly and continuously stress their commitment to direct Israeli-Arab talks and to emphasize that the international conference framework is designed as a trigger to such talks, not as an end in itself.

Moreover, the American messages have always included or been accompanied by assurances that Washington in no way intends to interfere in internal Israeli affairs.

## Woman dead in collision

Hanna Mizrahi, 37, was killed yesterday when her car collided with a Coca-Cola truck in Jerusalem. It was the third fatal road accident in the capital in the past week. (Itim)

## Weiss questioned by police

By ANDY COURT  
For The Jerusalem Post

Gush Emunim secretary-general Daniella Weiss was questioned by Jerusalem police yesterday about her role in a Gush Emunim counter-demonstration against Peace Now near Prime Minister Shamir's home Sunday night.

The police say Weiss is being investigated on suspicion of illegal assembly and violation of a permit to demonstrate on Sunday.

Police spokesman Ari Zelba would not confirm an Israel Television report that Weiss would soon be charged. The police have already said that Weiss will be charged for her part in a violent demonstration in Kalkilya a week ago, following a firebomb attack.

## Egged strike averted at last minute

By JONATHAN KARP  
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - The Egged bus cooperative called off its threatened strike just before its 8 p.m. deadline last night, as company and government officials held negotiations on a new operating agreement. The talks are to resume this morning at 10 at the Finance Ministry.

Egged spokesman David Golan warned that Egged was keeping open the option of halting night-time services in cities starting tonight if no progress is made in today's negotiations.

Transport Minister Haim Corfu and Finance Ministry representatives met last night for over two hours with Shalom Levin, chairman of Egged's secretariat. The parties discussed various financial claims, but remained far from signing a new agreement, said a Treasury official who attended the meeting.

## Hospital workers delay sanctions

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Post Science and Health Reporter

Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar yesterday agreed to meet with government hospital workers in the Knesset today, thus postponing for a day at least the sanctions that were to have begun this morning.

The coordinating body of the administrative and maintenance workers decided in principle yesterday to apply sanctions in all the government hospitals, but the move will await the outcome of the meeting with Kessar. If they are not satisfied with his promises, disruptions in the hospitals will begin tomorrow.

## U.S. FEARS

(Continued from Page One)

powers it envisions for the international conference.

The secret section of the memorandum is also said to contain seven separate provisions, including one that stipulates that Jordan will arrange for Palestinian representation in its delegation. It also notes that the Palestinian issue will be negotiated in the two-part committee. The other provisions were not reported in the Times story.

The report did note, however, that the entire exercise may be "moot," given the internal debate within Israel and the likely opposition of the Soviet Union to the restrictions on an international conference.

The report quoted Soviet officials as recently telling Westerners that there could be bilateral negotiations at an international conference but that any agreements would require the blessing of the full conference - thus avoiding any "separate deal."



An Ethiopian immigrant presents a bouquet to Aura Herzog yesterday during a reception at the president's residence to mark the beginning of the 11th annual Children's Week in Israel. Three hundred immigrant high-school and junior-high pupils were hosted by 170 native-born youngsters who presented a programme of dances and songs. (Scoop 80)

## Peres: Lavi better for security than holding on to Gaza Strip

By ANDY COURT  
For The Jerusalem Post

The development of the Lavi fighter aircraft will strengthen the country more than the possession of the Gaza Strip, Vice Premier Peres told the Association of Engineers and Architects in Jerusalem last night.

"If once it was thought that all our strength derived from geography and territory, we live today in a period in which most of our strength comes from science and technology," Peres told a crowd of about 2,000 at Jerusalem's Binyanei

Ha'uma.

"If I had to compare, for example, the 300 square kilometres of the Gaza Strip with the development of the Lavi, I would say that the Lavi gives more strength to the country than the 300 square kilometres of the Gaza Strip."

A discussion by the inner cabinet on the continuation of the Lavi project, due to take place today, has been postponed because of the minister's preoccupation with the issue of the international peace conference.

Peres broke away from his deli-

berations on the proposed conference to address the association's first convention. Largely avoiding discussion of the current political situation and the possibility of new elections, he talked mainly in support of higher education and technological development in an age when "economic power is more decisive than military or political power."

He noted, for example, that Americans were probably more concerned today about the economic progress of the Japanese than the military progress of the Soviet Union.

## Court considers bid for son's kidney

A five-man Supreme Court panel yesterday began considering a basic legal question: may a kidney be removed from the body of a retarded son in order to implant it in his father, in the hope that it will extend his life and thus enable him to take care of his son?

The hearing is a result of an appeal by the state and the Akim society for handicapped persons against a ruling by the Beersheba District Court two months ago that the kidney should be transferred to the father's body. Jerusalem district attorney Dr. Yosef Ben-Or, representing the

state, told the Supreme Court justices that there was no medical proof that the father's condition would deteriorate if he did not get his son's kidney.

On the other hand, if the son's remaining kidney failed, there may be no donor to provide him with another one.

The son's kidney should only be used if the father's life were in danger, Ben-Or continued. At present, the father is being treated with an artificial kidney.

No date was set for the resumption of the case. (Itim)

## CRISIS

(Continued from Page One)

Peres will try to mobilize Aipac, American Jewish leaders, Reagan administration figures and the media to publicly join the Peres-Hussein proposals.

At today's inner cabinet meeting, for which only 150 minutes have been allotted, Shamir and Finance Minister Nissim are expected to speak. Regarding the possibility of early elections, Labour appears to be at a disadvantage in the Knesset "numbers game." The party has only 56 or 57 assured votes favouring such elections, comprising its own 40 members, Mapam's six, the Citizens Rights Movement's four, and Shimon's two or three, with Shinui MK Zaidan Atshe said to be conducting negotiations on a crossover to Likud.

Fifty-six votes are expected against early elections, including the Likud's 41, Tehiya's five, the National Religious Party's five, Agudat Yisrael's two and MKs Aharon Abuhazzeira, Yigael Hurvitz, Avraham Verdiger and Meir Kahane.

The position of the Progressive List for Peace, hitherto seen as a sure vote for early elections, remained unclear yesterday. Although party spokesman dismissed MK Matityahu Peled's statement on Monday that the party would vote against early elections as a signal to Labour of the wish to be "consulted," political observers believe that the PLP is so fragmented and strife-ridden that it has no wish to face elections at this time.

The Shas Party is seen as holding the key to early elections, and has been heavily courted by both Labour and Likud in the past few days. Both parties admit, however, that Shas "is in nobody's pocket."

Shas leader Yitzhak Peretz met again with Peres yesterday but said

after the meeting that Shas's spiritual mentors, the Council of Torah Sages, would decide on the party's attitude to new elections only after Peres's return from the U.S.

While trying to sway the party to support - or resist - early elections, both Labour and Likud have also been proposing different ways of resolving the Reform convert registration issue in order to facilitate Peretz's return to the cabinet. The proposals, which include an agreement to temporarily "freeze" the registration of converts provoked a complaint to the attorney-general by MK Shulamit Aloni (CRM) yesterday. Aloni alleges that a freeze is illegal.

She also complained about the political involvement of former chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef, which she said was illegal. Yosef, a leader of the Council of Torah Sages, met with Shamir on Monday and is intimately involved in the current political negotiations. Yosef is also a member of the Council of the Chief Rabbinate and serves as a *dayan* (religious court judge). The High Court has forbidden *dayanim* from engaging in politics.

Labour's hopes for Knesset support from Tehiya also collapsed yesterday as the party announced following a meeting with Shamir that it was withdrawing its motion for early elections in light of the prime minister's adamant opposition to an international conference.

The Tehiya secretariat is to meet today to discuss the issue. MKs Rafael Eitan and Gershon Shafat still favour early elections, party sources said last night.

But Labour maintains that the government's precarious situation, with one major partner actively seeking its dissolution and so many individual Knesset votes up for grabs, cannot continue for long.

## PARTY

(Continued from Page One)

longer objected to an international conference, the U.S. was "the last obstacle, the most extreme anti-Arab state."

Peres had also given the Soviet Union "an unexpected victory" by enhancing its stature in Arab eyes "because it has succeeded in turning the international conference into an all-powerful tool for Israel's dismemberment." This victory was presented to the Soviets, "not by an East European country, not by Syria or by Libya, but by the foreign minister of the state of Israel."

"It would be unbelievable if it didn't take place before our very eyes," Shamir said.

In his counter-attack, Peres repeated that if the cabinet could not reach a decision, "there is no other way but to go to the people." He said Labour "won't hold a stopwatch," but early elections would be decided on in a matter of weeks.

Peres countered Shamir's accusation that he had become the spokesman for Peace Now, Mapam and the Citizens Rights Movement by saying the prime minister had adopted the positions of Gush Emunim.

World ORT Union and ORT Israel

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David Berg

for attending the distribution of scholarships to 34 practical engineers, in honour of

Pnina and Chaim Vinitzky

The ceremony was held yesterday at the ORT School of Engineering, Jerusalem.

سكول اورت للهندسة



## 'Butcher of Lyon' faces judges and jury

## Barbie: It seems 'I chased every Jew'

By MICHEL ZLOTOWSKI  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LYON. — "When I hear what is being said about me in this tribunal, I have the feeling that the Nuremberg (War Crimes) Court has been resurrected," Klaus Barbie said in German yesterday, addressing the court here where he is being tried on charges of crimes against humanity.

The man known as the "Butcher of Lyon" went on: "I get the impression that (during World War II) I had run amok, that I had grabbed a gun to kill everyone and that I had chased every single Jew."

"One forgets that we were 120

men and the men in charge were my chief. Dr. (Werner) Knab, and his second."

Barbie, 73, surprised the crowded courtroom by rising to face the judges and jury after a nearly six-hour reading of the indictment alleging crimes he committed over 40 years ago.

Knab, an SS Obersturmbannführer, or lieutenant-colonel, served in Lyon above Barbie during his spell as a Gestapo chief in the southwestern city from 1942 to 1944.

Gesticulating and apparently determined to make his point, the frail, grey-haired Barbie said calmly but

forcefully: "I was described as the master of Lyon. We depended on the Wehrmacht (German army)."

For more than five hours yesterday, Barbie listened attentively as two clerks read extensive descriptions of what he allegedly did to hundreds of Jews and Resistance workers.

While making clear in his brief statement that he did not accept the truth of the charges against him, Barbie did not specifically deny them.

Barbie stunned the audience, and apparently his counsel, when he said: "I have read in the (German

weekly) *Der Spiegel* that the father of the actual German federal president (Richard von Weizsäcker) has been sentenced as an SS general to seven years of jail for having signed a letter ordering the acceleration of transports (i.e. deportations) of Jews from France."

The trial was suspended yesterday because the defendant was "tired," presiding judge Andre Cerdini declared.

Just before the suspension, Barbie was telling the judge, in an answer to a question, that he could not explain to him briefly the meaning of "national socialism."

Barbie's lawyer, Maître Jacques Vergès, asked Judge Cerdini to consider that since his client had been tried in absentia in 1954 by a French military court that had sentenced him to death, this court had absolutely no grounds for judging again the same man for the same facts.

State Prosecutor Pierre Truche turned to the nine members of the jury and told them not to be disturbed by the technical terms used in court. "The law is simple," said Truche. "No one can be judged twice for the same facts. But in 1954, Barbie has not been tried for what he is going to be judged now."

## Nationalist leader takes over in Malta

VALLETTA (Reuters). — Nationalist leader Edward Fenech Adami was sworn in yesterday as Malta's new prime minister after his party ended 16 years of Socialist Labour rule in general elections last Saturday.

Thousands of cheering supporters escorted Fenech Adami on his first trip as prime minister to the seat of government, the Auberge de Castille, after the swearing-in ceremony in the presidential palace.

He is expected to form his cabinet today.

Outgoing Prime Minister Carmelo



Edward Fenech Adami

Mifsud Bonnici conceded defeat early yesterday after the final vote count showed the conservative Nationalists had won an absolute majority with 50.57 of the ballots cast.

"Please avoid violence and do not react to provocation," Mifsud Bonnici urged Labour Party supporters. "We'll be acting in a constructive way in the next five years in opposition."

Speaking to reporters after the bitterly divisive election campaign, Fenech Adami said: "We must feel again as one people."

Malta would see a "policy of dialogue," the freeing of the private sector, a pro-Europe policy, friendly ties with nearby Libya and at the same time a rapprochement with the United States," Fenech Adami said.

He said he was sure he could cooperate closely with Mifsud Bonnici. Both leaders are 53-year-old lawyers and Fenech Adami pointed out that they had known each other well at university.

"I expect the Labour Party to behave as a loyal opposition," he said.

Hundreds of cars and trucks full of Nationalist Party supporters still toured the streets of this Mediterranean island in late morning, noisily hooting and waving flags, tearing down Labour posters and damaging at least one Labour clubhouse.

## Unusual transplant of heart from living person

BALTIMORE (AP). — Surgeons removed a healthy heart from a cystic fibrosis victim and implanted it in another patient, a hospital spokeswoman said yesterday.

The operation apparently marked the first time that a heart from a living person was used in a transplant, said the Johns Hopkins Hospital spokeswoman. The cystic fibrosis patient was then given another heart as well as the lungs from an accident victim who died.

Both organ recipients were in critical but stable condition.

The operation began Monday after an unidentified accident victim died at the University of Maryland

shock trauma centre.

The dead person's heart and lungs were removed and transported on ice across town to Hopkins where the 28-year-old cystic fibrosis patient had been waiting for weeks for a new heart and lungs.

The cystic fibrosis patient gave surgeons permission to take his healthy heart for transplant into another patient.

Heart and lungs are often transplanted in tandem when the diseases that damage the lungs also damage the heart.

Cystic fibrosis victims produce a thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive system.



Three men are shown casting votes in a Manila district polling booth for the congressional elections in the Philippines. Unofficial returns yesterday had President Corason Aquino's candidates forging strong early leads, although both leftist and rightist opponents charged irregularities in voting procedures. Official results from Monday's vote are not expected for two weeks. (Reuters)

## McFarlane admits raising Contra funds

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — Former U.S. National Security adviser Robert McFarlane yesterday admitted he helped raise money from foreign countries for Nicaragua's Contra rebels, despite his previous denials.

Speaking before televised Congressional hearings, he also conceded that his statements on the matter to a Congressional panel in December were misleading. At that time he said he knew nothing of foreign aid schemes for the rebels.

McFarlane, 49, who served in the White House from 1983 to December 1985, detailed how a station identified only as "Country Two" — widely reported to be Saudi Arabia — donated more than \$32 million to the Contras, mostly after Congress barred official U.S. aid in October 1984.

Asked if he had a hand in obtaining contributions from that country, he replied: "yes."

## Syria to continue support for Iran

LONDON (Reuters). — Foreign Minister Farouq Shara's yesterday promised Syria's continued support for Iran in its war against Iraq, Teheran Radio reported.

"Syrian President Hafez Assad instructed me to inform your excellency that despite all the efforts undertaken in Baghdad... Syria will always stand beside the Islamic revolution of Iran," Shara was quoted as telling Iranian President Ali Khamenei.

Shara's arrival in Teheran yesterday with a message for Khamenei from Assad.

His visit followed reports that Assad met secretly with his longtime rival, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, at a remote Jordanian air base.

The radio quoted Shara's views regarding issues in the region and relations between Syria and Iran.

"The attempts by our enemies will not have any effect on the friendly and brotherly relations between the

two progressive and Moslem nations of Iran and Syria," Shara added.

Syria and Iraq, ruled by rival wings of the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, have been at odds for eight years. During much of that time Iraq has been locked in war with Iran, which is supported by Syria.

Relations between Damascus and Teheran have been under strain in part because of the Syrian intervention in Lebanon, during which Syrian troops have killed Iranian-backed Shi'ite Moslem gunmen. Assad has also been under pressure from other Arab leaders to end his backing for Persian Iran.

## FOREIGN BRIEFS

## Angleton dies, former top CIA official

WASHINGTON (AP). — James Angleton, director of the CIA's counterintelligence efforts until allegations of domestic spying led to his resignation, died Monday of lung cancer. He was 69.

Angleton was director of the counterintelligence department from 1954 to 1974.

According to testimony before a congressional committee in 1975, Angleton directed the CIA's domestic spying efforts during the administration of Richard Nixon, whose own mail had been opened by CIA agents in the same programme.

Senator Edward Kennedy, the late Senator Hubert Humphrey and the late Rev. Martin Luther King also were among the 1,300 Americans targeted by the CIA for surveillance.

## Meese's ties to defence contractor under probe

WASHINGTON (AP). — An independent counsel has launched a criminal investigation of Attorney-General Edwin Meese's ties to scandal-plagued Wedtech Corp., following requests from both Meese and the Justice Department.

Independent counsel James McKay said, "Investigation of the matters concerning Mr. Meese will commence immediately."

Meese said he would sever business ties with his investment manager, W. Franklin Chinn, who sat on Wedtech's board.

McKay has been investigating former White House aide Lyn Nofziger's lobbying efforts on behalf of the New York City Defence contractor.

## Indian opposition walks out over Punjab

NEW DELHI (AP). — Virtually the entire Indian opposition walked out of parliament here yesterday in protest against the imposition of president's rule in Punjab.

The protest was over the failure of the government to consult the opposition or debate the issue in the house before Monday's midnight announcement dismissing the Punjab government and putting the state under direct rule from New Delhi.

## Soviets grant exit visa to Ukrainian nationalist

MOSCOW (AP). — A 73-year-old Ukrainian nationalist who spent more than four decades in Soviet and Polish prisons and internal exile will be allowed to emigrate to Canada, a Canadian embassy official said yesterday.

Danilo Shumuk finished a five-year term of internal exile in January, and was granted an exit visa by Soviet authorities last week, said the official.

According to dissident sources abroad, Shumuk was sentenced in 1972 to 10 years in a hard-labour camp and five years of internal exile after being accused of anti-Soviet writings and remarks, and of writing documents that could serve as the basis of a political programme.

## Winnie Mandela moving to 'Beverly Hills'

SOWETO, South Africa (AP). — Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, is to move soon from her Soweto box house to a mansion at Beverly Hills, Not Beverly Hills, California, but Beverly Hills, Soweto.

Beverly Hills, sited in the Orlando west extension area of Soweto, is the name given by locals to a plush area. It contrasts as strongly with the rest of the sprawling black dormitory city of Soweto fringing Johannesburg as the wealthiest white suburbs.

Soweto residents say the house, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, is by far the grandest in the regimented city.

## Sentences upheld of Jazz Section leaders

PRAGUE (AP). — A judge upheld sentences against five leaders of the banned cultural group the Jazz Section yesterday, as outside the courtroom about 100 of the group's supporters chanted "glasnost" and "free the Section."

Karel Srp, leader of the Jazz Section, and his deputy Vladimir Kouril got a roar of support from the crowd as they were escorted by police back to the Prague jail where they have been held since their arrest last September.

Srp and Kouril were sentenced to 16 months and 10 months in jail respectively in March for defying a 1984 ban on their group, which promoted modern music and published uncensored literature.

## Afghan soldiers kill officers, flee to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP). — More than 60 Afghan soldiers fled to Pakistan Monday after murdering their officers in a barracks mutiny near Kabul, it was reported here.

## '5,000 mercy-killings a year' estimated

## Euthanasia in Holland — a growing option

CAPELLE AAN DEN IJSEL, Netherlands (Reuters). — In homes across the Netherlands family doctors are carrying out euthanasia at the request of patients seeking a dignified final release from incurable or terminal illness.

Dr. Herbert Cohen, one such practitioner, says he has been involved in "up to a dozen" mercy-killings in the past three or four years and has always informed the police beforehand.

He has never been prosecuted.

"Before they die, they say the most marvellous things. I remember one old lady saying 'I think I'm the only one who is not nervous in this room,'" Cohen told Reuters in an interview in this small town near Rotterdam.

His files contain handwritten lists of patients to whom he has administered euthanasia, giving age, sex, illness, but no names. He also shows a simple "thank you" card designed

by one man before he died.

Article 293 of the Dutch Criminal Code states that anyone who "takes another's life at his or her explicit and serious request" faces up to 12 years in jail.

But doctors usually avoid prosecution by following guidelines established as precedents since a landmark court case in 1973, when a doctor was acquitted after performing euthanasia on her terminally-ill mother.

The guidelines dictate that a person must unwaveringly ask to die over a period of time; and a doctor's diagnosis, and prognosis of the patient's suffering as unbearable and irreversible, must be confirmed by other doctors. If there is no other option, the doctor then performs euthanasia.

The government is considering legally formalizing these directives.

The issue of euthanasia divides the nation, but a 1985 poll showed that 67 per cent favoured it. Opponents

talk of "barbarity."

A man must not be allowed to take someone else's life," said Gerrit van den Berg, head of the Dutch Patients Society.

No statistics exist, but Jeanne Tromp Meesters of the Dutch Society for Voluntary Euthanasia estimates that there are 6,000 to 10,000 cases a year. This means an average of 20 a day at home and in hospitals.

"Doctors are not sure if and how they will be prosecuted, so they often prefer to hush it up. As patients are often very ill, it won't always arouse suspicion if they die," she said.

Ger van der Werf, a family doctor, told Reuters that he had surveyed 63 colleagues and found 51 had carried out euthanasia. He estimates that general practitioners perform about 5,000 mercy-killings a year. His survey was published in a Dutch medical journal.

Many people are told they must leave hospital and go home if they want euthanasia, Tromp Maesters said.

Cohen, 56, talks frankly about euthanasia and the ethics, giving poignant details about case histories.

In the past few years, Cohen has warned police a day or two before he

carries out a mercy-killing and then contacts them afterwards with details. Police formally file a case with the prosecutor's office, but it goes no further.

His most recent case was a 72-year-old man with cancer of the pancreas, a terminal condition. Cohen attended as the second doctor and visited the house several times.

"The other doctor and I rehearsed every move and even every phrase we would use. It sounds sick, but if you don't, nothing happens," he said. The doctors and patient agreed on a date.

"It went off smoothly, with only his wife present in the bedroom. Barbiturates were administered intravenously to cause a coma in three to five seconds. The other drug was then injected, a curare which paralyzes all muscles including the respiratory ones," Cohen said.

Breathing stopped at once, the heart within 20 minutes.

"The person holding the patient's hand is not aware of any change. There is no twitching or anything like that. I wouldn't know what is more dignified," he said.

Nearly all his euthanasia patients have terminal cancer, but he has also dealt with other diseases.

## For a True International Conference

The convening of an international peace conference is the best way of furthering the cause of peace in the Middle East.

For such a conference to have any value, its participants must include all parties to the conflict — foremost among them the State of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Reuniting its ranks at Algiers, the PLO affirmed its willingness to participate in an international peace conference, and reiterated its support for the peace plan adopted at the Fez Arab summit.

We call upon the Government of Israel to put an end to all evasions and tricks, and to make a courageous decision — the decision to participate in an international peace conference. This conference should be based on the following principles:

- \* Recognition of Israel's right to peace and security.
- \* Recognition of the Palestinian people's right to national self-determination.
- \* A complete cessation of all hostile acts, while the negotiations take place.

The Israel Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace  
P.O.B. 956, Tel Aviv

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## TV series looks at tough issues faced by first PM

## 'Ben-Gurion and Religion' revisited

BY JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Although he insisted on being married in a civil ceremony in New York and was very pleased when his son married a non-Jew, David Ben-Gurion was adamant when it came to public observance of Shabbat and kashrut observance in the army.

This disparity between B-G's public posture and private views on religion and state is highlighted in an Israeli television documentary on B-G, whose first part is to be broadcast tomorrow at 9:35 p.m. Called *Ben-Gurion: Agreement and the Status Quo*, the programme was produced and written by Maya Dukler and David Michaelis. The second segment, to be broadcast on Thursday at the same time, will discuss the controversial German reparations payments and B-G's role in winning approval for them. The final segment, to be aired at 9:30 p.m. on May 21, focuses on the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace feelers.

The series is one of a number of programmes marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Israel's founding father and first premier. Two TV programmes on the Lavon Affair will be broadcast in the autumn.

During a preview screening for reporters, the producers of the show said they had decided to tackle a number of difficult issues dealt with by B-G, rather than attempt to produce yet another biographical show.

TV Director Haim Yavin is the narrator of the series, and a number of people who were involved in the issues in the late '40s and '50s are interviewed.

B-G is shown marrying Paula in New York, after having rejected the offer of a rabbi friend to have a Jewish ceremony. When his son Amos



David Ben-Gurion walks to the Western Wall in this file photo from 1968. Behind B-G are Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and Shimon Peres.

married a non-Jew, B-G took him aside and congratulated him, saying it was good to inject "new blood" into the nation. Later, under public pressure, he converted in a Reform ceremony; Rabbi Shlomo Goren says in the film that B-G subsequently asked him to convert her in an Orthodox ceremony.

There was some disagreement between B-G's daughter Renana and Rabbi Goren over whether a mezuza had been affixed on the Ben-Gurion home in Sde Boker.

But it was clear that the first premier made important concessions to the religious and ultra-Orthodox so as not to create additional divisions in the new state. As a result of arguments over religious legislation and the desired relationship between synagogue and state, there is no written constitution to this day.

The TV programme recalls the long-forgotten yet still-relevant dispute that erupted in 1948 when two religious soldiers refused to prepare a hot meal on Shabbat before a military operation, and were sent to military prison for a term of two weeks, which was later extended to three months.

There was an uproar in the religious community.

Among the participants in the show are Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz (who failed to persuade B-G to separate synagogue and state), Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, Yosef Burg, Dr. Zerah Warhaftig, and "the daughters of B-G and of Rabbi Yehuda Leib Maimon.

Leibowitz quotes B-G as saying: "I will always be against a separation of religion and state. I want it to be in the hands of the state." Burg recalled no such thing, and did not see it as B-G's position. "He was motivated by a desire to preserve the unity of the country," said the former minister.

## Execution enhances SLA chief's authority

By DAVID RUDGE

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
ROSH HANUKKA. — The decision of South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad to execute one of his men for killing a Druze resident of the Shouf mountains has enhanced the general's authority and standing, according to sources in South Lebanon.

The soldier was executed by firing squad two weeks ago after a court martial found him guilty of murdering the Druze.

Details became known to Israeli authorities only after the event, which Lahad himself described as a purely internal affair.

The murder occurred outside the security zone in South Lebanon. The murderer was a Christian from the mixed Christian-Druze town of Jezzine who belonged to the local Christian militia attached to Lahad's forces.

According to reports, the soldier and his wife were passing near Jezzine when their car was blocked by a car driven by a Druze resident of the Shouf mountains.

A heated argument ensued during which the militiaman drew his pistol and, despite his wife's efforts to stop him, shot the Druze.

Lahad later met Druze leaders to prevent reprisals which could have led to an endless blood-feud. He reportedly promised them that justice would be done.

He also visited the family of the accused militiaman and warned them not to try to interfere or do anything that might aggravate the situation. A few days afterwards the Christian soldier was executed.

Sources in South Lebanon noted that the kind of "Wild West" justice meted out by Lahad was "perfectly acceptable" in the Lebanese context. "That is the code by which they live," said one source.

He maintained that this demonstration of Lahad's authority had enhanced his reputation and stature. "That's the kind of firm action they expect," said the source.

## Threat of split still looms

## Gush cease-fire

By JOEL GREENBERG

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Warring factions in Gush Emunim averted a formal split yesterday by agreeing on a timetable for discussing possible changes in the movement's leadership.

Despite the agreement, the threat of a split still hangs over the movement.

Secretary-General Daniella Weiss told *The Jerusalem Post* that a meeting of the movement's "active secretariat" would be held tomorrow followed by a Monday meeting of the 50-member "expanded secretariat."

Movement members opposed to Weiss's leadership had been pressing for an expanded secretariat meeting tomorrow but had encountered opposition from Weiss and Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron.

Weiss yesterday sought to counter reports that opposition to her leadership was growing. "There's a great surge of support for me," she said. "I hope the current leadership will be endorsed, and we can continue our activities as planned. Our chances are good."

Weiss and Levinger were thrown on the defensive this week by a sudden "coup attempt" against them by key figures in Gush Emunim, who ended a meeting on Monday by calling a secretariat session to replace Weiss and begin a reassessment of Gush Emunim policies.

The opposition, led by Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun, charges that the current leadership has become increasingly preoccupied with security and vigilante activity, and has adopted a violent style which has alienated Gush Emunim from the general public.

Security should be left to the army, Bin-Nun maintains, and the battle for settlement should be waged in "positive and constructive ways" that can win the hearts and minds of Israelis.

The division in the movement

dates back to criticism by Bin-Nun and others in Gush Emunim of the Jewish terrorist underground and the campaign for its release led by Weiss.

The argument over Gush Emunim's image and policies, reflected in a series of articles in *Nekuda*, the settlers' journal, has gained momentum in recent months. But the internal debate suddenly became public following last week's rampage in Kalkiya by Weiss and other settlers following a petrol bomb attack near the town.

The anti-Weiss camp gained unexpected strength after her opponents met this week. The opposition announced a "corrective movement," against what it charged is a monopolization of power by the Weiss and Levinger duo.

Bin-Nun said his group would call for increasing Gush Emunim's membership, and creating wider representative bodies and new decision-making forums.

The decision to move for a secretariat meeting came after Bin-Nun threatened a sit-in opposite the Gush Emunim offices in Jerusalem, and after key movement figures defected to the opposition camp. Those attending the opposition meeting included Bin-Nun and former Tehiya MK Hanna Porat, both of whom had ceased being active in the movement in recent years; Yisrael Harel, head of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip; and Uri Ariel, the opposition's candidate to replace Weiss.

Ariel is currently the secretary-general of Gush Emunim's settlement arm, Amana, and has been moving to rally support for the opposition camp in the settlements.

Likud members, including MK Dan Meridor, have been in touch with the opposition leaders, who are also backed by the National Religious Party's Minister without Portfolio Yosef Shapira and MK Haim Druckman.

## Gaza tense as terrorist trial opens

By BRADLEY BURSTON

For The Jerusalem Post

GAZA. — Security forces went on alert throughout the Gaza Strip yesterday, as the trial of three men indicted in the 1986 terrorist slayings of three Israelis, the attempted killing of a fourth, and grenade attacks on IDF patrols opened in the military court here.

Haled Jayidi, 22, and Rahman Fadel Rahman, 24, both of Rafiah, and Imad Siftawi, 23, of Gaza, members of the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad organization, are accused of planning and executing three nearly

identical stabbing murders in the Gaza area from May to October last year.

The victims were Ahmad Ibrahim Salah of Abu Gosh, an Arab village outside Jerusalem, and Ashkelon residents Haim Azran and Yisrael Kitano.

Rahman, then head of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, directed Jayidi and Siftawi to follow Israeli shopping in the Gaza open market, and to slash their necks with a switchblade, according to the charges.

The defendants, in detention since

last December, yesterday admitted membership in the Islamic Jihad, but denied all the other charges. They told the court that their confessions had been extracted under duress.

Tension could be felt throughout Gaza from the early morning yesterday. Police and army reinforcements were called in, following rumours of terrorist acts in support of the defendants, and of threatened reprisals by Ashkelon residents.

Police sealed off roads and alleys leading to the military court, and carefully searched the spectators. Relatives of the victims screamed

at the defendants and their families as the trial opened, but order was quickly restored.

The Islamic Jihad is one of eight major fundamentalist Muslim organizations currently operating in the Gaza Strip. While all want the establishment of an Islamic Palestinian state, some of the groups have confined themselves to missionary work, while others, police sources charge, advocate and carry out violent acts.

The trial is to resume after a mini-trial is held to determine whether the defendants' confessions were obtained by force.

## The nuts and bolts of early elections

Post Knesset Reporter Dvora Getzler explains what the Knesset must do to call an early election.

Israelis are all too used to political crises and to headlines proclaiming the imminent end of a government. But compared with other countries a multiplicity of parties and coalition governments — such as Italy and France — Israel has a record of relatively stable parliaments. While Knessets seldom last their full four-year term, they don't fall far short of it.

The procedure for calling an election is well-defined in Basic Law: the Knesset and Basic Law: the Government. A new Knesset, the law says, is to be elected every four years in the Hebrew month of Heshvan, which falls in October/November.

But the Knesset may also pass a law to dissolve itself and thus call elections ahead of time. A private member's bill to do just this by the Citizens Rights Movement's Shulamit Aloni, is ready for submission, at any time, since it has already waited the statutory two-month period after having been tabled.

A dissolution bill can also be sub-

mitted by the government, which has a distinct advantage over private members in that it can speed the legislative process to push through all three readings within 24 hours. But it would normally give the Knesset at least 48-hours' notice before presenting such a measure.

In theory, an early dissolution bill needs no more than a simple majority of members present in the chamber when the vote is called in order to become law. But in practice, voting on such legislation is usually the occasion for recalling MKs from wherever they may be scattered.

Whether the Knesset dissolves at the end of its appointed four-year term or as a result of an early dissolution law, no new government may be formed before elections are held.

The Knesset may also give the governments its marching orders by

voting no confidence in its functioning. That move may not necessarily be followed by elections, since the president of the state is empowered to approach the heads of other parties and ask them whether they are willing and able to form a government that can win majority Knesset support.

The government, for its part, may end its own term of office in one of three ways. It can resign en bloc. Its premier can resign. Or it may come to an end on the death of the premier.

None of these events necessarily implies that elections are to be held, since again the president may entrust the formation of a new government to the outgoing premier, to another leader of the party in power, or to the leader of another major party. And, as experience has often shown,

negotiations with possible coalition partners can be drawn out.

Except where the Knesset votes to dissolve itself and hold early elections, the calling of elections turns the government in power into a transition government which is, in effect, a government besieged: no minister may resign, and no new members may be co-opted.

The bill dissolving the Knesset — in the event of early elections — includes within its provisions the date of the elections. And most Israelis doubtless wish they could be held as rapidly as in England, for example, where Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has announced that the country will go to the polls in three weeks.

But two laws may affect the timing of elections. One relates to the list of

those barred from being elected — this includes the president, the chief rabbis, judges of secular and rabbinical courts, the state comptroller, the chief of general staff, rabbis and clerics or other faiths who are employed in those capacities, and senior civil servants and army officers.

At present, the law provides that these people must have left their jobs 100 days before the elections, a provision which could prove inconvenient to politicians wanting to co-opt them to their electoral lists.

But, as a senior Knesset source pointed out, this is an easily changed provision, if only on an ad hoc basis, and precedents for such changes exist.

A senior source at the Knesset connected Israel's prolonged run-up to elections with the extreme politicization of society. But moves are afoot to reduce the length of the campaign and anchor the change in law.



Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg (second from right) and Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir (right) listen to a guide's explanations during a visit to Masada yesterday. (Zoom 77)

## Parents urged to supervise kids' Lag Ba'Omer bonfires

By JUDY SIEGEL

**Post Science and Health Reporter**  
Magen David Adom has urged parents to supervise their children's Lag Ba'Omer bonfires, in view of the serious burns sustained by children annually during these celebrations.

The holiday, which will be celebrated on Saturday night and Sunday, marks the end of the plague that killed many of Rabbi Akiva's students, as well as the anniversary of the death of the kabbalist Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yochai.

MDA warns that people around a bonfire can be harmed not only by direct flames, but also by sparks and the heat, even from a metre away.

MDA should be called immediately for burn cases. If clothing catches fire, the victim should be rolled on the ground, preferably in sand. Alternatively, the flames could be extinguished with water or by covering the victim with a wet blanket, taking care not to cover the head so as to avoid smothering.

Smouldering clothing should not be removed as skin may be peeled

off in the process. The burned area can be cooled with wet, sterile bandages, but no oils or creams should be applied.

If the face is burned, ensure that the breathing passages are clear by pulling the head backwards. Eyes hurt by sparks should be rinsed out with cold water. Blisters should not be pierced, as they protect the body from initial infection. If the victim is conscious, he should be given water to drink.

If excessive smoke has been inhaled, artificial respiration should be administered until the ambulance arrives.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims are expected at Meron, the site of Bar-Yochai's tomb, where the holiday is traditionally celebrated with bonfires, feasting and prayers. A Tora procession from Safad to Meron will take place just before the holiday.

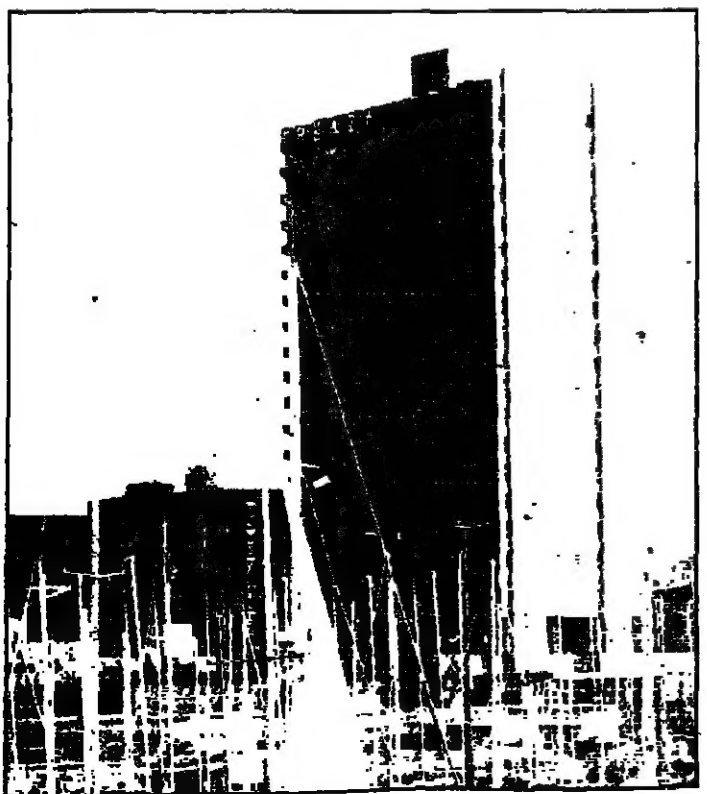
Since Lag Ba'Omer marks a break in the mourning period between Pesach and Shavuot, weddings are allowed on the holiday, along with haircuts and donning of new garments.

## THEY TAKE PLEASURE IN PLEASING

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The Moriah Plaza, Tel Aviv

## Anti-Defamation League lashes India for 'hostility' towards Israel

Jerusalem Post Staff

India has shown "unrelenting hostility" towards Israel and should not be allowed to host international conferences or sporting events until it lets Israelis participate, according to a report issued this week by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League.

The report, *India's Campaign Against Israel*, scored New Delhi for matching the Arab states in sponsoring anti-Israeli resolutions at the UN and other world bodies.

The ADL report focused on India's pattern of discrimination against Israeli scientists, athletes and others — 17 instances since 1980. Last year alone, according to the report, India denied visas to Israelis for five inter-

national events to which they had been invited, including the International Association of Chambers of Commerce and the World Table Tennis Team Championships held in New Delhi.

The criticism came as India delayed a decision to host the Israeli Davis Cup Team in the quarter-final tournament scheduled for July 24-26 in New Delhi. The International Tennis Federation has granted India a second extension — until May 15 — to reach a decision. Should India refuse to hold the match on its soil, it risks forfeiture of the competition.

The government of India was also criticized for downgrading and virtually ostracizing Israel's diplomatic

legation in Bombay. In 1982 Israel's consul was expelled from India, and since then New Delhi has not permitted Israel to send a diplomatic representative higher than vice-consul. Travel restrictions in effect since 1965 prevent the consular staff from leaving the Bombay area and no Israeli diplomat has been received by any government officials since then.

The report declared that India's diplomatic opposition to Israel has exceeded in severity even historic adversaries like Pakistan and some Arab states. In 1985 and 1986 alone India co-sponsored 21 of the 24 anti-Israel resolutions adopted by the UN.

## Shomron gives first briefing to Knesset panel

By JEFF BLACK

Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron, in his first report to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, yesterday briefed its members on the situation in the territories.

He stressed the present lack of discipline among Jewish settlers in the West Bank who have been disregarding army orders.

Shomron later met with leader of settlements in the Hebron area, after touring the Arab town. He also toured Bethlehem and the Dehaishe and Al-Arroub refugee camps.

Sources close to Abba Eban, who is chairing the subcommittee investigating the Pollard affair, say he is

still confident the seven-man panel will issue a united report. The sources add there is a tendency among both Labour and Likud

members to be as moderate as possible. Recent reports have alleged that the subcommittee is divided along party lines.

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Entrance through Frenkel Gate (B)  
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سكول اولاد



Israeli Academic Centre in Cairo now five years old

# 'Rare gem' of Egypt-Israel accord

Elaine Ruth Fletcher

THE ISRAELI Academic Centre in Cairo celebrates its fifth anniversary this month, surviving as a rare gem of Egyptian-Israeli exchanges among the missed opportunities of the 1979 peace treaty.

The centre has survived despite the fact that in Egypt today, the question of cultural ties with Israel is an even more volatile issue than trade or political connections, said Prof. Shimon Shamir, the centre's first director.

And it has cultivated a following in Cairo's academic community—even though Egypt's universities are the main staging ground for religious and left-wing activities that are intensely anti-Israel.

"It's awfully strange that, especially in this field... we've managed to establish ourselves and make progress," said Gabriel Warburg. Warburg took over the centre from Shamir in 1984 and remained at the helm until this month, when he was replaced by Prof. Asher Ovadia, of Tel Aviv University's classics and art history department.

BOTH WARBURG and Shamir spoke at a day-long seminar at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem marking the anniversary and reviewing the current status of Israeli-Egyptian cultural ties.

But the centre is not Israel's cultural "embassy" in Egypt, they stressed. Rather, it is a meeting-ground for Egyptian and Israeli academics doing cross-cultural research.

The centre has aided more than 200 Israeli academics and researchers who have gone to Egypt for visits ranging from a few days to a few months, guiding them through bureaucratic tangles. It also serves hundreds of Egyptian students looking for books, videos and periodicals on Judaism, Hebrew literature and Israel.

"The numbers, in comparison to the hundreds of thousands who don't come, aren't very large," said Warburg. Nevertheless, the centre's library resources, lectures and opportunities for casual encounters with Israelis have helped to cultivate a small Egyptian constituency more sophisticated about Israeli society and sensitive to the anti-Israeli attacks of the Egyptian opposition.

And this has happened despite concerted attacks from the opposition press and intellectuals against any sort of cultural ties with Israel. "The centre has become one of the most popular targets of the opposition," said Warburg. "No other subject is as good a catalyst."

WHY ARE the kind of cultural ties with Israel that the academic centre represents such a sensitive issue?

Professor Shamir sees it partly as a reflection of Egyptian insecurity ab-



Shimon Shamir

out maintaining a national identity in the face of foreign contacts—insecurity that Israelis also possess vis-à-vis Egypt.

"Many Egyptian intellectuals tend to see this whole problem of cultural relations against the background of their traumatic relationship with the Western world," he said.

"They tend to see it in the context of an imperialist political and economic expansion, and therefore regard cultural relations as a threat to the development of their own authentic personality and culture." A number of recent books attacking Israeli-Egyptian ties have, in fact, focused on the cultural exchanges between the two countries, however meagre. They describe Israel's outreach in terms like "the cultural invasion of Egypt," and "the cultural attack on the Egyptian mind."

In this context, said Shamir, "the Israeli book in the Cairo book fair is more dangerous than the Israeli ship in the Suez Canal."

While political and trade ties may involve a peace between governments, cultural ties imply a more comprehensive peace between peoples. In Egypt, however, in addition to the psychological barrier, there are political ones.

"From the Egyptian point of view, cultural relations are seen as an Israeli demand in the context of the quiet pro quo of the peace treaty, something the government must control and regulate according to the ups and downs of the political relationship."

THE OUTSTANDING example of that attitude was what happened in the summer of 1982, when the faucet to academic, artistic and scientific exchange, opened under a cultural accord of the previous year, was turned off abruptly by Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

"Until May 1982, there were indeed exchanges of art exhibitions, mutual visits of Israeli and Egyptian professors, exchanges of programmes on Egyptian and Israeli television," said Shamir. "Some 60 Egyptian youths spent a summer here and the Egyptian deputy minister of culture led a highly successful delegation of musicians in 1981 to hold concerts and meet Israeli musicians. The opening of the Israeli



Prof. Gabriel Warburg

Academic Centre in June 1982 was perhaps the last milestone before the cold peace froze most cultural exchanges, notably Egyptian visits to Israel. "If we had been one month late," said Shamir, "the centre may not have materialized."

Today, while the government is taking a pragmatic line towards peace with Israel, professional organizations of doctors, lawyers and journalists regularly call for boycotts on the "normalization" process, Shamir noted.

Their opposition stems from ideological and practical obstacles, as well as from the deeper fears of Israeli cultural penetration.

"MANY OF THE intellectuals have strong ties with the Arab world, which is their public," said Shamir, explaining that this intensifies the

pressures to shun Israel. "Writers, those in the cinema, in the arts, work for the whole Arab world, and their material contacts depend on the Arab market."

The peace with Israel, moreover, is still a separate peace. Shamir quoted a colleague who once asked him: "How can you expect me to give a lecture in Jerusalem when 500 metres away there may be a demonstration against the occupation?"

The intelligentsia, moreover, often carries ideological banners with a decidedly anti-Israeli slant—be that Nasserist, leftist or Islamic. "There is no ideology of peace with Israel," said Shamir.

Prominent Egyptians who do support peace—often in the government echelons—do so for pragmatic reasons. "They know that peace is good for Egypt," said Shamir.

Still, the fear and trauma of establishing cultural ties is by no means something confined to the Egyptian side, he stressed. Israel, in fact, reflects almost a mirror image of the aspects of the Egyptian dilemma.

While in Egypt it is often the intellectuals who have the greatest difficulties with cultural ties, the strong motivation among Israeli intellectuals is not necessarily shared by all the other sections of society. "There are elements in Israeli society which, out of ignorance or a false sense of superiority, talk about the threat of 'Lebanization' of Israeli society as a result of

developing contacts," said Shamir.

SHAMIR recalled the words of an Egyptian writer during a visit of Yitzhak Navon to Cairo. The writer, observing the stress Navon put on his oriental background, said: "The Israelis haven't made up their minds whether they want to come to Egypt as representatives of Western modernity, or, as Navon did, stressing the Eastern elements."

Thus, said Shamir, cultural ties with Egypt will compel Israelis to face issues which are too easily evaded: Who are we? What are the real roots of our culture—our place in the region? What kind of historical relationship, beyond politics, do we want to develop with our neighbours?

"The very fact that the enemies of peace focus on the cultural dimension more intensely than any other shows it is indeed a very vital link," he said.

"It is important not just for the development of a network of relationships that can nourish movement toward a comprehensive peace. It is also important for each society separately."

"For Israelis," concluded Professor Shamir, "these cultural relations can help us to cope with some very fundamental questions that we haven't yet been able to answer about our identity between East and West, our roots, place and purpose in this part of the world."

## Dreams of martyrdom and paradise



The resistance will not stop until all the people become martyrs.

(AFP photo)

Diana Abdallah/Tyre

ABU JAAFAR crouched in the shade of pine trees by a ruined house in South Lebanon, speaking of martyrdom and virgins in paradise as he fingered his green worry beads.

"When we go to attack an Israeli post, we don't talk of worldly matters, but dream of martyrdom and hoor al-ain (virgins of paradise)," the 23-year-old Shi'ite Moslem fighter said.

Only believing martyrs would meet virgins of paradise, "more beautiful than Miss Universe," he added. His fellow-fighters, followers of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, grinned in assent.

"Israel is the enemy of the prophets, our Islamic beliefs and humanity," declared Hamzeh, 25, hugging a Kalashnikov assault rifle close to his chest.

Other fighters, clad in military fatigues, prayed nearby.

The fighters said they used the guerrilla base near the port of Tyre for attacks on Israeli troops and militiamen of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon army (SLA) in the Security Zone.

Most fighters belong to the Islamic Resistance, a loose coalition of groups led by the Iranian-backed Hizbullah (Party of God).

One said that many guerrillas were trained by Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in East Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

The Islamic Resistance fought a big battle with Israeli troops near Qantara village on April 18, losing at least 22 dead, according to Sheikh Ali Yassin, a Shi'ite cleric who gives spiritual counsel to guerrillas before operations.

"The resistance will not stop until all the people become martyrs," Yassin said, challenging Israel to attack. "It will be their bad luck if they launch an invasion because they will face people who love to die, whereas they (the Israelis) love life."

But an independent military source in the south said such losses might handicap the Islamic militiamen. "Don't carry that martyrdom business too far," he said. "With so many killed, the resistance will face a manpower problem."

IN TEL AVIV, Israeli chief of General Staff Dan Shomron said on television recently that he viewed Palestinian guerrillas as the main threat to Israel. "There is the Hizbullah."

lah. I would not define them as the "in enemy," he said.

Palestinians penetrated Israel's border defences on April 19 for the first time since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. Israel also blames Palestinians for a surge of cross-border Katyusha rocket attacks. In response, it has stepped up air strikes on guerrilla bases in the Sidon area and dropped leaflets warning southerners not to help the Palestinians.

Yassin, speaking at a religious school he runs in Tyre, said the Islamic resistance did not actively coordinate operations with the Palestinians. "We facilitate their passage through the security zone. We can't let anyone not to fight Israel."

The mainstream Shi'ite Amal movement has tried, with only limited success, to stop Palestinian and Lebanese guerrillas from launching attacks from North of the Security Zone, in a bid to deprive Israel of pretext to attack Shi'ite villages there.

In practice, however, Amal militiamen often fight alongside the Hizbullah-dominated Islamic Resistance.

The independent military source said that despite 65 attacks in April and 70 in March, there were no signs of an imminent Israeli foray beyond the border zone.

"They (the Israelis) have beefed up forward positions with 40 to 50 men. Military movements are more than usual but not offensive. There is no build-up of armour or artillery," he said.

One Shi'ite fighter said men whose original homes were in territory still occupied by Israel formed the backbone of the resistance. "They don't live there, but they

know the area."

The military source said it was fairly easy for guerrillas to use their knowledge of the south's rocky hills and valleys to slip past Israeli-SLA observation posts into the Security Zone.

Describing how they prepare for operations, Abu Jaafar said he and 17 other fighters met to pray with a religious cleric before setting off to attack an Israeli post two months ago.

"We saw a religious leader and he gave us a sermon on martyrdom and explained Islamic rulings on how we should behave if we were captured. We gave him our wills. In mine, I told my young brother and four-month-old son to follow my path."

"We walked for 24 hours through cold rain and fog before we got to our target," he added.

Abu Jaafar and his comrades cited Koranic verses which they said helped inspire their struggle.

"Verily, of the faithful hath God bought their persons and their substance, on condition of paradise for their return on the path of God shall they fight, slay and be slain," ran one such verse.

Posters of Khomeini and of Lebanon's missing Shi'ite leader Musa Sadr are plastered on walls in Tyre, the market town of Nabatiyah and surrounding villages, along with slogans denouncing Israel as an "absolute evil."

Abbas, a 22-year-old fighter, said the guerrillas believed Khomeini's teaching that Israel was a "cancerous germ."

IN JIBSHAZET, a stronghold for Islamic militants, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid sat cross-legged on the carpets of the village mosque. "The number of martyrs is no problem. The fight will escalate because Islam is ruling now," he said.

Tyre residents said Obeid, 30, was a key Hizbullah leader involved in coordinating guerrilla attacks, but he said his role was limited to giving spiritual advice to fighters.

"I teach them that Israel is an enemy we have to fight. America has its Statue of Liberty, we want our liberty too," he said as bearded villagers listened attentively.

One fighter, who said he worked in a guerrilla operations room, said most Islamic fighters were full-time, but part-timers included university students, professors and doctors. Their ages ranged from 18 to 28, he added.

"We reconnoitre Israeli and SLA posts daily. We see weak points, exploit them, and hit them where it hurts most," he said. We hope Israel will launch an operation so we can show them what we will do."

(Reuters)

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani.

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## Iranians massing for the 'big push'



An Iranian tank is set ablaze by Iranian troops near Basra recently.

Ed Blanche

THE SDX-AND-A-half-year-old Gulf War appears to be balanced between Iran's military successes and Iraq's tightening squeeze on Iran's economic jugular—its oil exports. Tehran's increasing military capabilities, and a renewed threat to tanker routes from Iran's deployment of Chinese-made missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, have attracted substantial attention throughout the region.

Iranian forces, backed by commandos and Kurdish guerrillas operating behind the Iraqi lines, stabbed into northeast Iraq on April 24 what appeared to be a limited offensive to nibble away at Iraqi defences.

In the southern sector of the 1,180 kilometre front, there are persistent signs that the Iranians are massing forces east of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, for a renewed push.

Earlier in January, the Iranians launched a 60,000-man offensive, Karbala-5, against Basra. They seized a chunk of marshland east of the city and a string of islands in the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

The offensive, which broke through three Iraqi defence lines and advanced further than the Iraqis had expected, finally stalled 10 km. east of the battered city after some of the bloodiest fighting of the war.

Reports have surfaced recently that large formations of Revolutionary Guards, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's special forces, have been moved to the front's central sector. According to Western military sources, vast arms-dumps have been built up around the southern

Iranian oil city of Ahwaz—the rear headquarters for Karbala-5—and the garrison town of Dezful in the central sector.

Iran's state-run media have announced a new mobilization of at least 100,000 volunteers. That would put Iranian strength along the front at around 750,000 men, according to Western intelligence estimates.

The Iranians claimed that April's Karbala-10 offensive seized some 300 sq. km. of Iraqi Kurdistan, including "strategic heights" that have put Iraqi bases within artillery range.

BAGHDAD initially dismissed the Iranian assault as a small-scale operation that was repulsed, but 10 days later, Baghdad communiques reported that Iraq's first Army corps was still "crushing and destroying" Iranian forces in the sector.

Lending credibility to the Iranian claims, battlefield reports indicate that the Iranians have stopped the costly human-wave attacks in which tens of thousands of ill-trained volunteers were slaughtered in the war's early years.

They now appear determined to avoid World War I-style mass offensives, concentrating instead on operations using one or two divisions that exploit weaknesses in Iraq's formidable but cumbersome defence line.

The operations seem most prominent in mountainous or marshy areas, where Iraq's superior firepower loses its effectiveness. Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told the Iranian parliament that the use in Karbala-10 of helicopter-borne troops to leap-frog Iraqi defences and commandos backed in the rear

by Kurdish irregulars was "our first successful experience in combining classical and guerrilla warfare techniques."

WHILE THE Iranians appear to be doing well on the ground, the Iraqis are still masters of the skies.

The Iranian thrusts have forced the Iraqis to divert their air power from punishing raids on Iran's economic centres to the battlefield. But despite the loss of as many as 50 warplanes in winter battles, the Iraqis have resumed heavy bombing attacks on Iran's offshore oilfields, pumping stations and loading terminals.

They have stepped up attacks on Iranian tankers carrying oil to less vulnerable loading terminals in a bid to choke off exports that pay for Tehran's war effort. Twenty tankers have been hit this year, but Iran has managed to maintain its exports, despite a serious dip a few months ago. However, analysts believe that if exports fall below one million barrels a day for a prolonged period, Tehran would be in trouble.

Iran's deployment of the Chinese-made missiles at the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf's only outlet, attracted the interest and naval presence, of the United States, Soviet Union and other countries interested in keeping oil shipments from the region unhindered.

Kuwait, an oil-producing nation on the Gulf that Iran accuses of aiding Iraq, has asked the superpowers for protection from Iranian attacks on its oil tankers. Iran has threatened to retaliate against any outside help for Kuwait.

BAGHDAD has declared that Iran's failure to take Basra or achieve the victory the nation's leaders had promised by the end of the Persian year on March 21, meant that the Iranians were in trouble.

But military analysts said the pattern of Iranian operations has indicated that their strategy is to wear down Iraq's formidable war-machine with a chain of offensives aimed at undermining support for President Saddam Hussein.

The ouster of Hussein, who the Iranians charge started the war by invading Iran in September 1980, is Tehran's main condition for ending the war. Khomeini also declared last month that Iran wants Iraq's ruling Ba'ath socialist party toppled as well.

(Associated Press)

## EDUCATION OF A POLISH JEW

Haskell Nordon

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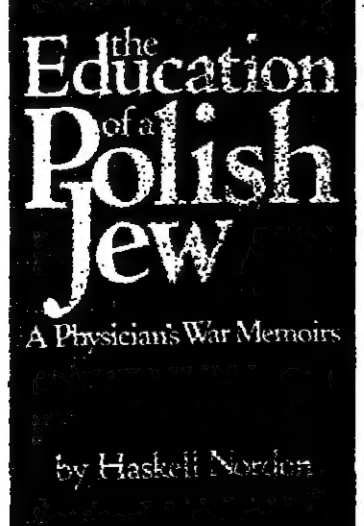
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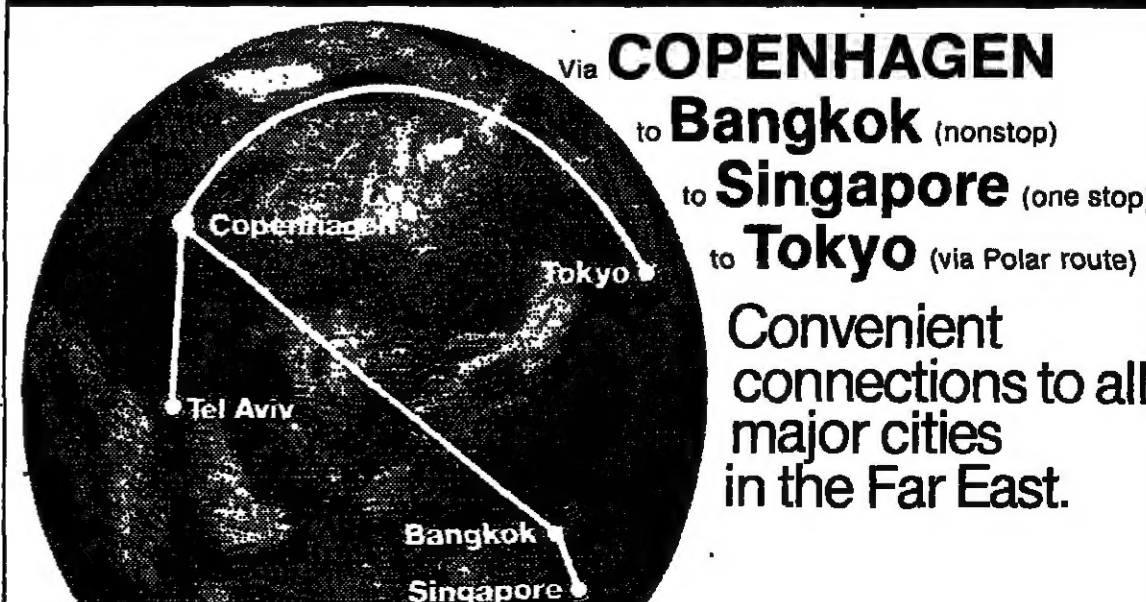
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by Haskell Nordon

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# Easel

ers, writes Doron Pely.



and I started experimenting," says Eshet.

Eshet sees the computer as a "fast surface" on which he can execute his ideas without being slowed down by the constraints of conventional techniques. "When I work, I try to ignore the machine and just enjoy the fact that I can test fresh ideas and get the most out of myself," he says. Before leaving Boston, Eshet dis-

played some of his computer-generated works, along with "conventional" paintings at The Space gallery. "People were very excited with the computer drawings, and I got very positive reactions," he says. The prints, which were produced on an Amiga computer, display an amazing array of colour and forms. An ink-jet colour printer can reproduce any of the thousands of colours selected by the artist. Eshet achieves a "layering" effect by passing the print several times through the printer, adding an additional layer of colour at each pass.

In Israel, computer art is not having an easy time with the artistic establishment. "Pure" artists have difficulties in accepting this kind of work," says Eshet. The Israel Museum, where he wanted to display some of his works, didn't quite know what to do with it, according to Eshet.

Despite the barriers to acceptance, computer art is making inroads in Israel. The Bezalel art school, which is trying to incorporate computers into its academic and artistic environment, will host an exhibition of 40 computer prints by Eshet between June 10th and July 1st. Most of the prints on display will be from the artist's Boston collection. BIBLICAL art is another field of artistic endeavour that has recruited

the computer. Jewish American artist Philip Ratner is using a drawing programme to create multi-coloured biblical figures. The works, which can be seen at Ratner's Israel Bible Museum in Safad, include the figure of Moses climbing up Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments in his arms; Aaron in his priestly breast-plate and Miriam dancing. Ratner is using the animation capabilities of his Amiga to rotate and change colour schemes and background scenery in his presentations.

But the works displayed in the Safad museum are only the first step in a grand plan to use computers as bearers of religious messages, according to Steve Ornstein, director of the Israel Bible Museum. "We want to spread the message of the Bible by developing educational computer programmes of biblical stories," says Ornstein. The programmes will enable children to interact with art, text and music describing biblical events such as the sacrifice of Yitzhak by Abraham.

Another giant project that Ornstein envisions is the creation of illustrated computer versions of each weekly Tora portion (Parashat Hashavua). "We want to tell the story in a way that will draw people to enjoy and learn as they play," he says. Funds for the computer art projects come from donors in Amer-

ica. Ornstein plans to make drawing computers available to youth in the Safad museum, where they can try their hand at creating biblical and other artistic art. "There are some whiz kids in the neighbourhood, and we want to give them the opportunity to create some works," says Ornstein.

COMPUTER artistry is an excellent way to introduce youngsters to computers and help unleash creative streaks. Several museums in Europe and America have a permanent line of computers available for visiting youth to play with. The Tel Aviv museum educational department is currently investigating the possibility of developing a similar feature. Tadiran Computers has offered to supply the museum with ten Amiga computers, a colour printer and supervisory personnel for a period of several weeks during the school's summer vacation.

The electronic canvas has not yet said its last word. With future improvements in the technology, and as people become used to the new medium and stop viewing it with guarded suspicion, computer art will gain prominence and acceptance. Cubism, Impressionism, Expressionism and Surrealism may yet give rise to a new, combined school of painting: Digitalism.

## Check-out counter



FOREIGN consumers of Israeli oranges are much less likely to buy squashed or rotten fruit thanks to computers set up in Haifa port to coordinate quality control.

The Agriculture Ministry's Service for Quality Control of Exported Agricultural Produce has for years regularly checked fruits and vegetables leaving the ports. Sample boxes of produce are examined to check for faults.

But computers at the Haifa port, set up as a first stage that is expected to reach all ports in the future, are doing the job better. All the quality controllers were trained to work on computer terminals. The specialized equipment was manufactured by the electronics plant at Kibbutz Gashur, while the research was done by production engineers at the Volcani Centre's Agricultural Research Administration.

The job of the computers is to analyse data from the human quality control officers. As they go through the sample boxes, they report to the computer on any defects in the fruit as well as what truck transported it, how well the fruit was separated according to size and if the packages were piled properly on wooden stands. The information is calculated immediately and a printout points out which sources of fruit had sent the largest number of defective and improperly packaged oranges.

So far, according to the Volcani Centre, the experiment has induced suppliers to send the best fruit and to sort out defective oranges.

COMPUTERS are helping in the battle against car theft. A London-based company, Cannon Rubber Ltd., has produced a device that requires the driver to punch out a four-digit code before he is able to start the motor. You have 15 seconds to punch the code. If you try to start the car without it, loud horns sound. It works not only to foil burglars, who could never manage to guess the code in so short a time, but also fights drunk driving by the car owner himself. He has to be sober enough to remember the code and punch it correctly.

THE black-and-white bar codes on products sold in supermarkets and other stores are familiar by now, even though only a few shops use electronic readers to register bar codes of products automatically. But the codes are necessary even without these devices, as cashiers punch the code numbers into the cash registers, which automatically produce the prices.

Now a "gun" that prints bar codes and can be carried around easily by store clerks has been brought to Israel. The importer, Loman Madd-Er, says that any clerk can learn quickly to press the buttons and print bar codes on sticky tape, that are ejected quickly by the portable gun.

SEVERAL workers can use the same personal computer at the same time, using a device developed by L.S., an Israeli company. It connects

the personal computer with additional computer screens and keyboards. This means significant savings in the purchase of the "brain" of the computer for more staffs. Called "Isicom," the device lets a manager switch control over the computer "brain" from one screen to another. The manager can also proofread texts being produced by his subordinates. The device costs about half the price of a fully-equipped personal computer.

COMPANIES that have in-house newsletters and have had to send them out to be printed can now produce them themselves, if they invest as little as \$10,000 in desk-top publishing equipment.

According to a recent issue of *The Israel Economist*, a laser printer and software has been produced by the Kidron Computer Company that will do the job. Linguatex in Jerusalem produces software that typeset handwritten text and lays out the pages. Bank Leumi and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev already create their own newsletters in this manner. The main problem so far is the lack of sufficient Hebrew fonts.

There is much less of a problem getting Hebrew wordprocessing and other software. Wordmill and Einstein Writer, as well as Wordstar, are available in Hebrew. Reshet software is available for lawyers to handle foreclosures and other legal procedures, and dentists can buy Dentcom, a programme that not only registers appointments but can also

document previous dental treatment using graphic displays of teeth.

If you're struggling for the right word, Algal Computer has a Hebrew-English dictionary that can translate English words into Hebrew text and vice versa. Microcad's computer-aided design programme is helping some 25 Israeli architectural firms create and alter three-dimensional construction designs - all of these using the Hebrew language for instructions to the computer.

A recent article in *Time* magazine reported that some 2,000 vehicles in California - from luxury limousines to garbage trucks - are equipped with a gadget called Navigator. The computerized device helps drivers reach a destination by displaying their vehicle's location on a glowing green map.

Soon, Budget Rent-A-Car in the San Francisco area will offer cars with computerized units that can calculate the shortest route between any two addresses in that city and print out a concise set of instructions.

The devices work with data provided by a solid-state compass installed in the roof of the car or truck and from sensors attached to the wheels. A computer in the trunk of the vehicle processes the data and displays the information on a screen on

the dashboard. The devices are expensive, costing over \$1,000, but the price is expected to come down. One company, optimistic about the future for these gadgets, is programming all of Los Angeles, Miami and Atlanta so that drivers can find their way around those cities' highways and streets. Advocates believe that in a decade, road maps will be nearly obsolete.

AN AMERICAN computer company chose its Israeli branch to produce its software in - of all languages - Japanese. C.C.A. wanted to sell its computers in Japan but needed someone to help them speak Japanese instead of English. Its subsidiary here has had experience doing special projects and was chosen for this peculiar challenge.

With help from Japanese software for other computers, and a Japanese person living in Israel, they succeeded. Japanese presents a considerable challenge, as the language can be phonetic or use pictures. One word can be a noun and an adjective simultaneously.

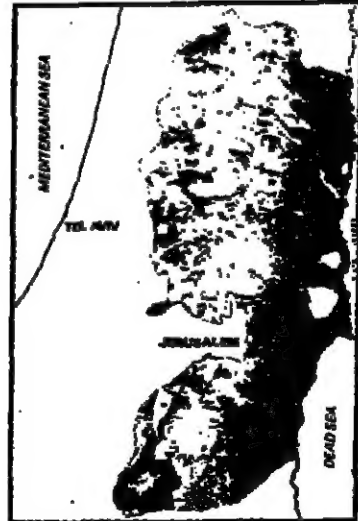
The programme that resulted includes a dictionary, and will be able to expand as new words are added to common usage in Japanese. The Israeli branch of C.C.A. is also working on similar programmes in Korean, Thai and Chinese. The latter will be completed with help from the Chinese Studies Department staff at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. There are enough Thais in Israeli restaurants to help out with that language programme.

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## 24-hour-a-day trading grows

## Exchange links create global bourse

NEW YORK (AP). — From London to Chicago to Tokyo to New York, the world's financial centres are linking up piece by piece into a single, global financial market functioning 24 hours a day. A big New York bank calls the process "a force for revolutionary change."

The stocks of many companies can now be traded on several markets at once. Stock markets in some countries are lengthening their hours to cover trading in more time zones, and investors are moving massively into stocks, bonds and financial contracts on other continents.

In some of the most recent developments:

- The Chicago Board of Trade and the London International Futures Exchange have agreed to trade each other's financial contracts later this year.

- Since this month, the Chicago Board of Trade has begun staying open late in the evening to mesh with Asian trading hours.

- The London Exchange is operating a similar mutual trading agreement with the Sydney Futures Exchange in Australia.

- The New York Commodity Exchange and the Sydney Futures Exchange have established links to trade gold on both markets. The Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Singapore International Monetary Exchange linked up to trade financial securities two years ago.

As the markets expand and link up, investors around the world are gradually acquiring access to their investments all day and all night. They can respond to developments — such as conflict in the Middle East, or lowered interest rates in Japan or election results in France — that might have a dramatic impact on their investments.

All this coming about as companies and brokers seize on each other's financial markets — the days of trade politely moving from time zone to time zone as the trading day ended are fading.

Japanese investors, for example, purchased \$100 billion worth of foreign stocks and bonds in 1986. According to Japanese government figures, this is nearly double the \$54b. recorded in 1985. U.S. investments abroad totalled \$232b. in 1985. U.S. government figures show, and probably exceeded that last year.

The global market is becoming a necessity to some big companies. Early this year, the West German auto manufacturer Daimler-Benz



**TOKYO, 11 a.m., WEDNESDAY**  
It's the middle of the local trading day here, but even though it's 9 p.m., Tuesday, in New York, long after the markets there are closed, New York dealers can still make trades.



**LONDON, 11 a.m., WEDNESDAY**  
The trading floor in Tokyo has been closed for several hours and it won't open in New York for several hours, but investors in both cities can make their trades here.



**NEW YORK, 11 a.m., WEDNESDAY**  
Dealing here began 1½ hours ago, which means traders in London can continue dealing even though their local market is closed. In Tokyo, where it is 1 a.m., Thursday, traders can get an early jump on their local trading.

raised a massive amount of capital by issuing new stock worth \$1.5b., a huge offering that could have depressed the company's stock price on German markets. By offering the shares in New York, Tokyo and other markets, however, the company tapped foreign investors who snapped up the new shares without affecting the share price.

Company shares listed in Tokyo include Dow Chemical of the U.S., Robeco of the Netherlands, National Australia Bank, Dresdner Bank of Germany, Bell Canada Enterprises and Union Bank of Switzerland. Dozens of Japanese companies have their shares traded in the U.S. and European stock markets.

Merrill Lynch of the U.S. and Vickers da Costa of Britain have seats on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Nomura Securities and a dozen other Japanese brokerage firms are represented in New York and London.

The development of this global market is pitting financial centres, as well as brokers, against one another.

The London Stock Exchange, now known as the International Stock Exchange, is developing ambitious plans to become the world's

leading market for internationally traded shares.

There are now more than 400 companies whose shares are traded in a number of exchanges outside their home country, and the total is constantly growing. Adopting what the *Financial Times* of London has called "a highly aggressive stance that is likely to worry other exchanges around the world," London hopes to establish a market eventually for about 1,500 of these international stocks. Morgan Guaranty Trust, a major New York bank, recently said in a monthly publication on world finance, that "global integration of finance" is "a force for revolutionary change in market structure, exemplified by the great increase in the presence of banks and other financial institutions outside their home markets."

The number of foreign banks operating in the U.S. has risen from 50 in 1970 to nearly 800 in 1987. In Britain, they have risen from 95 to more than 300. And in Japan from 38 to more than 100 in the same 17 years, Morgan Guaranty noted.

Where is all this globalization leading? Yoshihisa Tabuchi, president of Nomura of Tokyo, the

world's biggest securities firm, foresees a global financial market dominated by a dozen or so giant financial institutions.

Tabuchi sees this coming by the beginning of the next century. And Nomura, he says, "like a marathon runner, will endeavor to remain in the top group."

Nomura has more than 11,000 employees and does 25 per cent of its business outside Japan. It plans to boost foreign operations to 50 per cent within five years.

The huge expansion of markets has raised questions about how government regulatory authorities can keep up with them. Anxiety has been heightened by insider trading scandals on both sides of the Atlantic.

The U.S. and Britain have been cooperating to help deter and catch securities law offenders. In December, government officials from several countries met in London to explore the subject of international securities regulation.

The effectiveness any regulations is likely to strongly influence investors' confidence in taking full advantage of international trading.

## An Israeli in Paris

## TENNIS

## Martina 'not done yet'



**HER DAYS.** — A Martina Navratilova hitting Wimbledon last. (Reuter telephoto)

put myself on the line on the

was ousted from the Italian Open last week by improving Argentine "new wave" ready to replace her.

I threw in the towel against the end of the first set and it's ridiculous, but that will not promise."

There's no doubt that Graf will make her in the coming months, but I can't see her again. I've absolutely everything, and I that. It might be difficult to live off it better than me, when I give 've put, but at least I will know better than me or not.

## REVIEW

Origins: The Cameroon Singers over Italy, Jerusalem, Rebecca from May 5. A selection of works from the 12th to the 20th

T musical secrets were this pleasant excursion Jewish choral repertoire some fine semi-singing was heard as his finely-tuned ensembles from the selection of material (pre-Israeli) half, re- the audience with the re was a Jewish music

## AIRLINE BRIEFS / Jonathan Karp

## El Al flew 10% more cargo last year

El Al yesterday reported a 10 per cent increase in cargo shipments during fiscal year 1986/87. The airline carried over 140,000 tons of cargo, compared with 127,000 tons in 1985/86.

El Al attributed the growth to a 16 per cent increase in exports to Europe sent by air, including a 17 per cent increase in agricultural exports, and a 22 per cent jump in imported goods from Europe.

Over the past three years, El Al cargo has grown 50 per cent, from 93,000 tons in 1983/84 to last year's 140,000 tons.

ARKIA ISRAEL AIRLINES Ltd. has signed an agreement with a foreign company to establish a pilot's school in Israel. Arkia expects to open the school, using the other company's curriculum, within three months.

The pilot's school will be based at the Herzliya airport and will be able to accommodate 20 students for instruction in several types of light and commercial aircraft.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of Lufthansa West German Airlines has approved the opening of a Jerusalem branch, and the Israel spokesman for Lufthansa in Israel said he hoped the office would be open within a few months.

He said the decision reflected the airline's desire to expand its activities here. Lufthansa already operates more weekly flights to Israel than any other foreign carrier —

seven from Frankfurt and three from Munich — and last year it carried 110,000 passengers on the Israeli route, up from 105,000 in 1985.

ONCE YOU HAVE MADE IT to London, British Airways is trying to make it cheaper for you to continue on to the U.S. BA has reduced its fares to 13 U.S. cities by up to £100 from now until June 8.

A few of the mid-week Apex fares are: New York — £349, Los Angeles — £399, Boston — £376, Washington — £419, and Chicago — £449. Tickets must be purchased seven days in advance, and passengers must stay at their destination for at least seven days.

SWISSAIR HAS DECIDED to equip its new fleet of McDonnell Douglas MD-11 aircraft with Pratt and Whitney engines. Swissair has ordered six MD-11s and taken options on 12 additional planes.

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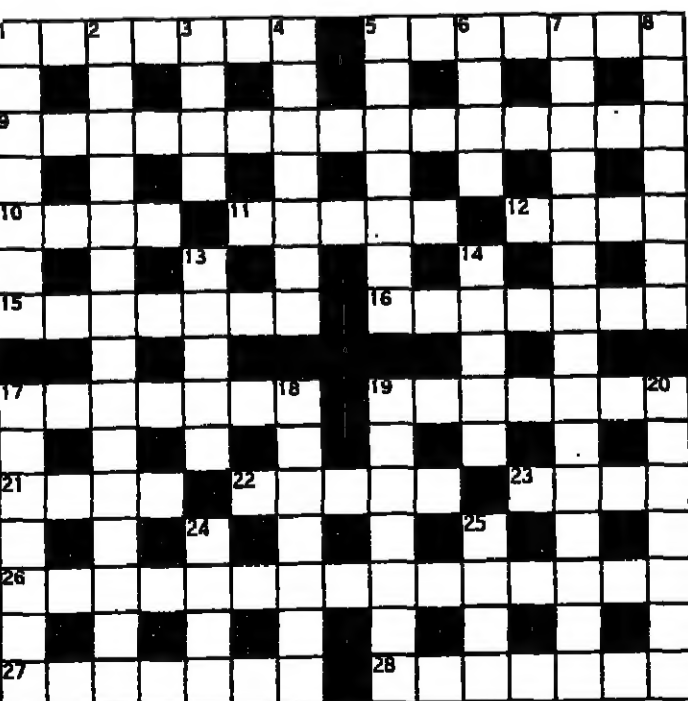
## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 Fitch, a European jazz fan (7)
- 3 Abernethy, for example, fired but not finished (7)
- 9 Plug flown over technical college? (4,2,3,6)
- 10 Food for male swallow (4)
- 11 Virginia is one in this condition (5)
- 12 A medal-ring for firing? (4)
- 15 But it will not secure louse plaster (7)
- 16 Regret about flat profits (7)
- 17 Biographer's lad endlessly fustigh (7)
- 19 Dog approaching a hill needs a keeper (7)
- 21 Old buckle causes cry of pain (4)

## DOWN

- 22 Dealing with U-boat that is damaged (5)
- 23 Cordwainer needed one to caduce (4)
- 26 Only I can pass in it (4-11)
- 27 Payment to author from queen's office (7)
- 28 Kids who make us feel the pinch (7)
- 1 Dark suit? (7)
- 2 Short of a platform? I call you first in a spiritless way (15)
- 3 Some pork for composer dropping in (4)



## Yesterday's Solution

PANORAMA TOMTOM  
AUCUOHO  
RETIGENT DEEMAN  
IHSDRYA  
THEREFORE STAIR  
YR OAITC  
A SPAN ROUGHISH  
COMPACT RATEY  
APIAEUV  
DROWN SEVERANCE  
ESTKIET  
MATRIX EVENSONG  
IOFETLE  
CARAIFE CRUSADER

## QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Hoarse, 4 Radish, 7 Difficult, 9 Prod, 10 Trui, 11 Trail, 13 Rabbit, 14 Linger, 15 Philip, 17 Window, 19 Aired 20 Law, 22 Barn, 23 Spokesman, 24 Groyne, 25 Lather. DOWN: 1 Hammer, 2 Raid, 3 Effort, 4 Recoil, 5 Doll, 6 Hatter, 7 Doubtless, 8 Tragedian, 11 Tibia, 12 Livid, 15 Filing, 16 Pickle, 17 Weasel, 18 Wander, 21 Spry, 22 Bail.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 Chinese rebellion 1850-1864
- 5 Port in Dorset
- 8 Dried kernel of coconut
- 9 Alien
- 10 Duo
- 11 Swagger
- 12 Twisted yarn in embroidery
- 14 Adroit
- 17 Helicopter blade
- 19 Bird
- 22 Conspicuous mistake (sl.)
- 23 Musical interval
- 24 Antelope
- 25 State of SE Mexico

## DOWN

- 1 Silent
- 2 Make better
- 3 Mature insect
- 4 Burial places
- 5 Sunshade
- 6 Legal possessor
- 7 One eligible to vote
- 12 Wicker boat
- 13 Angered
- 15 Judgment
- 16 Bird of prey
- 18 Head-dress
- 20 Caper
- 21 Anglo-Saxon god

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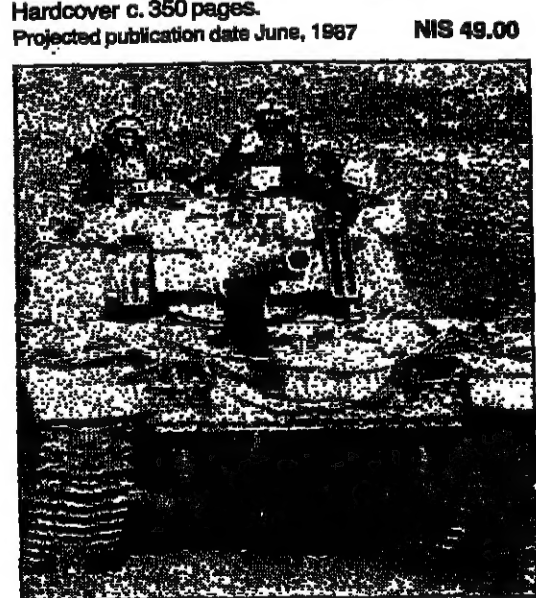
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## MARKET PLACE

J. VOET

## Why not nationalize the banks

In discussing possible solutions to the bank share headache, everybody seems to agree on at least one point: avoid nationalization. Privatization continues to be one of the great growth industries. Nationalization and public control have become almost dirty words. They are no longer mentioned even by members of socialist parties, although nationalization and socialism used to be almost synonymous.

The people grappling with a solution for the ill-devised bank share arrangement are trying to avoid nationalization, which is plainly on the cards, at almost any price. This view also prevailed in 1983, when the ill-conceived "arrangement" was worked out in haste under heavy pressure. It stipulates that certain companies owned by the banks were to buy back the shares in October 1987 and October 1988 at a guaranteed price, the vast sum required for this purchase being provided by the government.

The banks were granted loans for the purpose. In theory, the banks have another five years, until 1993, to repay these loans. If they can do this, the status quo will be restored. But judging by their present and foreseeable profitability, it is highly improbable that they will be able to. In that case, the government has to take possession of the shares. Which is nationalization pure and simple.

Whether it is privately or publicly owned, a bank is a public utility. It has to serve the public in one of its most important economic activities. In Israel, the banking industry was never dominated by the privately owned banks.

During the almost 40 years of Israel's existence, the importance of the banking industry has grown by leaps and bounds. The number of independent banks, however, decreased still further.

The present situation is as follows: The vast majority of all banking transactions are done by banks under public control. Bank Leumi is controlled by the Jewish Agency, Bank Hapoalim by the Labor movement and United Mizrahi Bank by the political party of that name. There are only two privately-owned banks of any importance, the Israel Discount Bank and, more recently, First International Bank.

The real problem of Israeli banking is not ownership, but insufficient control. The public bodies that had to instruct the banks and their managers on how to execute their tasks simply failed in their duty. But the boards of the two important privately owned banks also blundered. By accepting growth as a criterion of performance, rather than profit, or serving the public, all banks, with one exception, made a mess of their obvious duty. By trying to outdo each other, they all failed. Again, the government had to step in to avoid the disaster that would undoubtedly have occurred when all public banking utilities had to close their doors in 1983.

The way back to sanity has obviously nothing to do with ownership of the banks. It is not very important whether these public utilities are privately or publicly owned, or whether they are directly owned by the state. In several countries, the government has taken control of the banks. France nationalized its four large commercial banks as far back as 1946, and in recent years the state has acquired more privately owned banks in that country. Also in 1946, three principal commercial banks were nationalized in Austria. In Italy the government is the major shareholder in several important banks.

It is not ownership that decides whether the community is adequately served by its banks. The way the banks operate, compete with each other and serve the public, while aiming for reasonable profitability is decisive. The shareholders, whether private persons, public bodies or the state itself, have to devise rules and a control apparatus which guarantee that this principle is adhered to.

That is the problem that faces the people who are trying to find solutions for the severe headaches created by Israel's 1983 bank-share scandal.

## High tech firms unveil financing plan

By KEN SCHACHTER  
For The Jerusalem Post  
TEL AVIV. — Small high technology companies yesterday called on the government to assist them in raising capital through the creation of special mutual fund shares that would be sold on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Six officers of the Israel High Technology Industries Association, which represents nearly 800 companies, said small firms are generally excluded from tapping investors' funds because of the stock exchange requirements concerning capitalization, sales and other factors. The group proposed "bundling" companies into various sectors, such as biotechnology and computers.

Gabriel Meron, an association board member, and general manager of GP Electronics Ltd., said that until small companies can raise capital, Israel's high technology exports will be limited to a risky concentration of seven or eight major industrial companies.

"We're putting too many eggs in one basket," he said. Meron said most of the companies receiving government research and development funds fail to actually market a product.

"You can't stick just to research and development," Meron said. "Without translating technical achievements, you're just losing your money."

Last year, the government allocated \$570 million for research and development projects, with about half going to military projects and half to civilian projects, he said.

Entry into the mutual fund would be limited to companies with annual turnovers under \$5m.

The association had approached the Knesset Finance Committee for help in raising capital and came away with a tentative offer of a NIS 4m. fund, a figure Meron said was "laughable" considering that it would have to be divided among nearly 800 companies in the industry group.

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